THE STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF SCOTLAND.

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THE STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS OF THE *MINISTERS* OF THE DIFFERENT PARISHES.

By Sir JOHN SINCLAIR, Bart.

VOLUME FOURTH.

"*Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam.*"
Cicero, de Orat. lib. ii.

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No.	Name.	Population in 1755.	in 1790-1.	Inc.	Dec.	Page.
	Brought over,	29531	33030	5012	1513	
34	Kingſbarns, -	871	807	—	64	254
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52	Alvah, -	1161	1070	—	91	393
53	Strathmiglo, -	1095	980	—	115	400
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56	Logie Buchan,	575	538	—	37	421
57	Glenholm, -	392	300	—	92	429
58	Falkland, -	1795	2198	403	—	437
59	Banchory Davinick	1495	1700	205	—	450
60	Duriſdeer, -	1019	1031	12	—	457
61	Torphichen, -	1295	1069	—	226	465
	Carried over,	60856	64320	8419	4955	

* Mr Grant having only ſtated the number of examinable perſons, a proportional addition is here made for children under that age, at the rate of $\frac{1}{4}$.

† A ſimilar addition is made to Dr Bell's report of this pariſh, whoſe examination roll was made up in 1785-6.

No.	Name.	Population in 1755.	in 1790-1.	Inc.	Dec.	Page.
	Brought over,	60856	64320	8419	4955	
62	Loggie Eaſter, -	850	1125*	275	——	472
63	Errol, -	2229	2685	456	——	480
64	Fordoun, -	1890	2258	368	——	494
65	Kinglaſſie, -	998	1200	202	——	501
66	Crawford, -	2009	1490	——	519	505
67	Kirkpatrick-Juxta,	794	617	——	177	517
68	Kirkpatrick-Iron-gray, -	895	762*	——	133	525
69	Largo, -	1396	1913	517	——	534
70	Towie, -	656	550	——	106	547
71	Strachur and Stralachlan, -	1193	1061		132	555
	Total,	73766	77981	10237	6022.	
	Population in 1755,		73766	6022		
	Increaſe, -		4215	4215		

* The uſual proportion for children under 8, is alſo added to the returns from theſe pariſhes.

STATIS.

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF SCOTLAND.

PART IV.

NUMBER I.

PARISH OF LETHNOT.

(COUNTY OF FORFAR.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN TAYLOR.

Annexation and Situation.

THE parishes of Navar and Lethnot, prior to the year 1723, were two separate charges: Before their union, the parish of Lochlee and Lethnot were one charge. The minister resided at Lethnot, and preached two sabbaths at Lethnot, and the third at Lochlee. But, as Lochlee is distant from Lethnot ten computed miles, and as the road was found always inconvenient, and often dangerous, especially in winter, it was judged proper by all concerned about the year 1723, to disjoin Lochlee from Lethnot, to make the

former a ſeparate charge, and to annex Navar to the latter. Navar and Lethnot, thus united, lie in the county of Forfar, the preſbytery of Brechin, and the ſynod of Angus and Mearns. They are ſurrounded by the Grampian hills on all ſides, except towards the eaſt, where there is a ſmall opening, through which the Weſt-water iſſues, and the plain of the Mearns is ſeen. The only part of the Grampians, that lies to the ſouth of them, is the hill of Caterthun, remarkable for having on its top the remains of a very ancient fortification. Oppoſite to Caterthun, which is the higheſt top of a long ridge, running nearly from eaſt by north to weſt by ſouth, are the Grampians on the north, nearly in a parallel direction to the long ridge of Caterthun, but much higher. Along the bottom of theſe, Navar and Lethnot are ſituated, the breadth of the arable land from the bottom of Caterthun on the ſouth to the uncultivated parts of the higher Grampians on the north, being nearly 3-4ths of a mile all along, and the length about 5 miles. Lethnot, which lies eaſtward, is bounded on that quarter by the pariſh of Edzel, and part of the pariſh of Stricathrow, on the ſouth-eaſt and ſouth by the eaſtern part of the ridge of Caterthun, which ſeparates it from the pariſh of Menmuir; on the weſt by the Weſt-water, which ſeparates it from Navar; and on the north, by that part of the Grampians, called the *hill of Wirran*, or *the hill of ſprings*, (as the word Wirran is ſaid to ſignify,) which ſeparates it from the pariſh of Lochlee. Navar is bounded on the ſouth and ſouth weſt by the weſtern part of the ridge of Caterthun, which divides it from Menmuir; on the weſt it is ſeparated from the Glens of Fern, Tannadice, Cortachy and Clova, by a great extent of the Grampian mountains; and towards the north, others of theſe mountains divide it from the pariſh of Lochlee. But beſides that part of the pariſhes, which is ſituated as above deſcribed, there is a conſiderable number of ſmall

farms,

farms, which lie ſcattered on the Weſt-water and other ſmall rivulets, extending a good way among the hills in a north-weſt direction from the church of Lethnot, the moſt diſtant being upwards of five miles from it.

Soil, Marl, &c.—The ſoil in both pariſhes is various, ſome of it is of a clay nature, ſome a rich loam with a till bottom, and there is ſome haugh ground adjacent to the Weſt-water with a ſandy bottom. The ancient name of the Weſt-water was Dy; it has its ſource among the hills about twelve miles north-weſt from the church of Lethnot, and it receives in its progreſs a great number of rapid rivulets. There are appearances of unſhapely rocks here and there on its banks, and at one place there is found limeſtone of a reddiſh ſandy nature, mixed with veins of freeſtone. The farmers quarry the limeſtone, and find it to anſwer well with their lands. But there is no freeſtone quarry within the pariſhes, and though ſome of the rocks, which ſeem in general to be compoſed of what is commonly called *ſcurdy ſtone*, might anſwer for building, yet there is no quarry of them opened for that purpoſe. There is in the hill of Wirran, a ſpecies of rock of a bluiſh colour, and of a very fine texture, very like to that of the ſmall blue ſlates, from which the farmers quarry lintels for doors and windows. They can have theſe pieces almoſt of any length and breadth they pleaſe; but as the rock is at ſome diſtance, it is ſeldom wrought. What is of greater conſequence to ſome of the farms of the pariſhes is a vein of clay or rock marl, which runs from the eaſt end of Lethnot to the weſt of Navar, in a line nearly eaſt by north to weſt by ſouth. This vein extends beyond the boundaries of the pariſhes. It is found on the lands of Balfour at the diſtance of five miles eaſt, and it is found a little north of the Houſe of Faſque, the ſeat of Sir Alexander Ramſay, at the diſtance of ſeven miles from

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Soil, Marl, &c.—The ſoil in both pariſhes is various, ſome of it is of a clay nature, ſome a rich loam with a till bottom, and there is ſome haugh ground adjacent to the Weſt-water with a ſandy bottom. The ancient name of the Weſt-water was Dy; it has its ſource among the hills about twelve miles north-weſt from the church of Lethnot, and it receives in its progreſs a great number of rapid rivulets. There are appearances of unſhapely rocks here and there on its banks, and at one place there is found limeſtone of a reddiſh ſandy nature, mixed with veins of freeſtone. The farmers quarry the limeſtone, and find it to anſwer well with their lands. But there is no freeſtone quarry within the pariſhes, and though ſome of the rocks, which ſeem in general to be compoſed of what is commonly called *ſcurdy ſtone*, might anſwer for building, yet there is no quarry of them opened for that purpoſe. There is in the hill of Wirran, a ſpecies of rock of a bluiſh colour, and of a very fine texture, very like to that of the ſmall blue ſlates, from which the farmers quarry lintels for doors and windows. They can have theſe pieces almoſt of any length and breadth they pleaſe; but as the rock is at ſome diſtance, it is ſeldom wrought. What is of greater conſequence to ſome of the farms of the pariſhes is a vein of clay or rock marl, which runs from the eaſt end of Lethnot to the weſt of Navar, in a line nearly eaſt by north to weſt by ſouth. This vein extends beyond the boundaries of the pariſhes. It is found on the lands of Balfour at the diſtance of five miles eaſt, and it is found a little north of the Houſe of Faſque, the ſeat of Sir Alexander Ramſay, at the diſtance of ſeven miles from

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this place. A great quantity, no leſs than 300 of our cart-loads are neceſſary to manure an acre. But when it is put on in ſufficient quantity, it is far preferable to lime, its virtue remaining for many years. It is of different colours, ſome bluiſh, and ſome purpliſh mixed with veins of a cream colour. It efferveſces, like limeſtone, with aqua fortis, and anſwers beſt with thin dry land. However it can be of uſe to the adjoining farms only, becauſe with reſpect to thoſe at the diſtance of a mile or two from the pit, the expence and labour would exceed the profit. It is found at ſix, eight, and in ſome places ten feet below the ſurface. It is laid on ley and ſpread in ſummer, and continues to incorporate with the ſurface during the winter-rains and froſt, and the field is broken up in ſpring for oats.

Mineral ſprings.—There is a great number of mineral ſprings within the pariſhes, all of a chalybeate nature; ſome of them are ſtrong, and prove beneficial in complaints of the ſtomach and gravel. People of the neighbourhood frequently viſit them; but there is no reſort to them by perſons at a diſtance, though it is believed they would prove as ſalutary in ſome complaints as the wells of Pananach, which are in high repute.

Fiſh.—In moſt of the ſmall rivulets, which fall into the Weſt-water, there is trout of the common kind; and in the Weſt-water itſelf, there are three ſpecies of freſh water trout; 1*ſt*, Thoſe of the common kind about eight or nine inches long; 2*dly*, The yellowiſh trout conſiderably larger; and 3*dly*, A ſpecies of trout called *Par*, about the ſize of a common burn trout, with a ſmall head, and ſides beautifully clouded. Beſides the above kinds, there are alſo ſea-trouts, which come up from the ſea in May, from one to two pounds weight. There is likewiſe plenty of ſmouts,

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(as they are commonly called) or ſmelts, which are a ſlender clear-ſkinned ſpecies of trout about eight or nine inches long: They are ſuppoſed by ſome to be young ſea-trout, but their fleſh is white, whereas that of the ſea-trout is reddiſh like ſalmon.

Diſtempers.—On account of our being ſurrounded by high hills, we are expoſed to frequent and ſtrong guſts of wind, by which the atmoſphere is kept pure and healthy. The diſtempers moſt prevalent are inflammatory and pleuriſy fevers, owing to the frequent and ſudden changes of the weather, and to the peoples being expoſed to hard exerciſe, wet clothes, and a ſudden ſtopping of the perſpiration. There is a diſtemper, called by the country-people the *leaping ague*, and by phyſicians, *St Vitus's dance*, which has prevailed occaſionally for upwards of 60 years in theſe pariſhes, and ſome of the neighbouring ones. The patient firſt complains of a pain in the head, and in the lower part of the back; to this ſucceed convulſive fits, or fits of dancing at certain periods. This diſeaſe appears to be hereditary in ſome families. When the fit of dancing, leaping or running ſeizes the patient, nothing tends more to abate the violence of the diſeaſe, than the allowing him free ſcope to exerciſe himſelf in this manner till nature be exhauſted. Another diſtemper, with which the conſtitution of ſome families here is tainted, is the ſcrofula or king's evil, owing very probably to cold, and to a poor aliment. But in general the climate ſeems favourable to longevity. Within theſe laſt 16 years, four perſons have died, who were above 90; one of them was 106.

Population.—Dr Webſter's ſtate of the population about 40 years ago was 635 ſouls. The number of people has decreaſed conſiderably within theſe laſt 20 years. In 1777 and 1778, the number

number was 555, of whom 268 were males, 287 were females, 65 were under ſix years of age, 99 were under 10 years, 50 were Nonjurors, and 2 were Bereans. But in 1790, the number was only 505, of which 256 were males, 249 were females, 62 were under ſix, and 98 under ten. There are at preſent ſix tailors, ſeven weavers, two ſmiths, and two wrights, within the pariſhes. In 1790, the number of Nonjurors, or more properly now, Epiſcopalians, was 56. The cauſe of the diminution of the number of people is, that in no leſs than ſix caſes, two farms have, within theſe fourteen years, been joined into one. Beſides the number of ſubtenants is alſo conſiderably diminiſhed. There were ſixteen houſes, then inhabited by ſubtenants, which are now ruinous. In ſome caſes, the poſſeſſors, being old people, died out; and in others, the farmers choſe to have their poſſeſſion of land in their own hand, becauſe they could turn it to more advantage; beſides they wiſhed to leſſen the number of their ſubtenants, becauſe they found it inconvenient to lead fuel to them, and to perform other ſtipulated ſervices. The diminiſhing of the number of ſubtenants and the uniting of farms, it is preſumed, is an evil not peculiar to this corner. The conſequence is, that there is, and has been for ſome time, a great difficulty in procuring ſervants.

Births,

Births, Marriages and Burials for the laſt ten Years.

	Male Births.	Fem. Births.	Mar.	Bur.
In the year 1781	9	5	5	11
1782	10	5	6	9
1783	9	6	10	7
1784	9	4	4	9
1785	9	6	2	6
1786	6	9	7	12
1787	5	4	7	7
1788	11	6	3	8
1789	3	5	5	7
1790	8	6	8	12
Sums	79	56	57	88
Yearly average	$7\frac{9}{10}$	$5\frac{6}{10}$	$5\frac{7}{10}$	$8\frac{8}{10}$

In the year 1778, there were 119 inhabited houſes; but in 1790, the number was only 103. The number of married perſons or couples in 1778, was 85; in 1790, the number was 74. There were 15 bachelors, widowers included, keeping houſes by themſelves, and for the moſt part old men, in the year 1778. The number of perſons of the ſame deſcription in the year 1790 was 13. As to the number of children produced by marriages, there are many inſtances here, when young people marry, and are in eaſy circumſtances, of their having eight children; many where there are ten children, and ſome where there are thirteen. But when people advanced in life marry, the number of children is two or three, and ſometimes none. Many of our young people remove from the pariſhes, but not for want of employment. They get higher wages to the ſouthward, and ſome remove for the ſake of learning, a particular trade

or

or art, as their genius leads them. None have periſhed from want, ſince the end of the laſt century, when there were ſeven years of general ſcarcity, and when ſome perſons were found dead with cabbage, kail-roots, &c. in their mouths.

Sheep.—The number of ſheep is about 6770, of lambs 1256. But as a great number of lambs periſh through the weakneſs of the ewes, owing to ſevere winters and ſprings, there are brought annually from the ſouthern counties about 678, part of them lambs, but for the moſt part year-olds, becauſe theſe laſt ſtand the winter better. Hence the annual increaſe ariſing from lambs produced at home, and from thoſe brought from the ſouth, is about 1934. But of theſe generally one third is deſtroyed, before they come to full maturity, ſome by foxes, ſome by ſevere winters and ſprings, ſome are amiſſing, and many are cut off by a diſeaſe, which is here called *the Braxes*. Hence it happens, that the ſale of old ſheep annually amounts only to 2-3ds of 1934, that is 1289. The ſouth country, or what is here called the *Yarrow brood*, are of a larger ſize than the native kind, and bring a higher price from the butcher; but their wool is much coarſer. There is now ſuch a mixture of the two breeds, that hardly any of the native kind are to be found pure. The wool of the native kind, ſeveral years ago, uſed to ſell at 1 s. 3 d. *per* lb., and at preſent it eaſily brings that price, when pure; while that of the Yarrow breed brings only 10 d. or 11 d. The pound conſiſts of 24 ounces Engliſh. Many of our farmers begin to think that they would have acted more wiſely, had they encouraged their own native breed: for they find, in the *firſt* place, that the Yarrow breed requires much more paſture; 2*dly*, That they do not ſtand the winter ſo well; and, 3*dly*, That their wool is of a much coarſer quality. A wedder

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of the native breed when full grown, ſells at 10s. 6d. or 11s. and the Yarrow kind brings 14 or 15s. It is obſerved here, that the nature of the ſheep's paſture greatly affects the wool. A farm where there is much wet marſhy ground, and that rough kind of graſs which grows on ſuch ground, always produces coarſe wool.

The fineſt wool is produced, where the ſheep have young tender heath, and ſhort ſweet graſs to feed upon.

The diſeaſe formerly mentioned under the name of *Braxes*, in this place, proves fatal to many of the young ſheep. It ſeizes them towards the end of harveſt, when they are in beſt condition, and the moſt thriving are cut off by it. When their bodies are opened, the blood is found extravaſated in their bowels, and in a putrid ſtate. It appears to be infectious; for when the diſeaſe begins, numbers periſh, and they are cut off by a ſhort illneſs. No method is found ſo effectual for ſtopping the progreſs of the malady, as removing the ſheep to a paſture at ſome diſtance. When the young ſheep are carried to a diſtant paſture, it is ſome time before they become acquainted with it, ſo that for a few days at leaſt, they muſt be but half-fed. This conſideration induced an ingenious man in a neighbouring pariſh, to confine his young ſheep a good part of every day within their pens, at the time when the Braxes began to make its appearance, that they might be prevented from filling their ſtomachs, when attacked by it, and this precaution had the deſired effect in ſaving their lives. There are others who ſay, that they have tried this precaution without ſucceſs.

Horſes and black cattle.—The number of horſes within the pariſhes is 147: many of them are of a ſmall ſize, only a little larger than the Shetland breed. The number of black cattle is 601. The number of calves reared annually

is about 130; but beſides theſe, there are between two and three dozen fed for the butcher.

Heritors, farms, &c.—The heritors of Navar and Lethnot, are three in number, none of whom reſide. The valued rent is L. 1031: 13: 9 Scots: The real rent is about L. 410 Sterling. The proprietor of the greateſt eſtate gave leaſes (a little after 1760) to all the tenants in the lower part of the pariſhes for two nineteen years and a life; and for one nineteen and a life, to thoſe in the upper or more hilly part of the eſtate, obliging the tenants to carry on certain pieces of improvement ſpecified in their leaſes. They became obliged to build ſubſtantial houſes on their reſpective farms, to incloſe a certain portion of the farm, to bring in and improve baulks, and ſuch pieces of waſte ground as were fit for improvement, and to plant an acre, or half an acre, according to the ſize of the farm, of young trees in ſome convenient place, and to keep a ſufficient fence around them till grown up. Some of the tenants have completely fulfilled theſe ſtipulations. All the farms are ſet upon moderate terms, ſome at 7 s. *per* acre, ſome at 5 s. and ſome as low as 2 s. 4 d. Their ſize is very various; ſome conſiſt of 30 acres, ſome of 50, ſome of 80; there is one of 100 acres, and another of 160. The rent of thoſe farms which lie in the lower part of the pariſhes, is made to riſe at the end of every nineteen years of the leaſe. Thus the farm of 160 acres, which paid L. 33, for the firſt nineteen, pays now yearly during the currency of the ſecond nineteen L. 39, and is bound to pay for the firſt nineteen of the life L. 45.

All the tenants have already increaſed the value of their farms very conſiderably by improvements, and by bringing waſte ground into cultivation: But there is ſtill a good deal of waſte ground on moſt of the farms, which will require the induſtry of many years fully to improve. Moſt of the larger farms conſiſt of what was formerly two farms.

Agriculture.

Agriculture.—The number of acres arable, may be eſtimated at 1200. Of theſe about 400 are allotted to oats, 200 for Cheſter bear, 30 for peaſe, about an equal number for turnips, potatoes and cabbage; all the reſt lie in graſs, about 144 acres being ſown with red clover, white clover, and rye-graſs. The number of ploughs is 28; but about 30 or 40 years ago, the number was upwards of 40. The cauſe of the decreaſe is, that in many inſtances, two farms have been joined into one ſince that period, and beſides, in the hilly part of the pariſhes, ſeveral farms which were formerly in cultivation, are at preſent lying in graſs, and meant to be kept in that ſtate, as paſture for cattle and ſheep. Twenty-eight ploughs, indeed, are more than ſufficient for all the labour; tho' on the larger farms there is work enough for the ploughs employed. On a ſmall farm of 18 or 20 acres, one plough of four ſmall horſes is more than enough; ſo that the uniting of ſmall farms, which lie contiguous, may be ſometimes conſidered as a wiſe plan, and as tending to the advantage of the country, at leaſt in reſpect of the landlord.

Within theſe laſt 30 years, the art of farming is greatly improved in this place. It is only about 20 years ago, that the farmers began to clean their land by ſowing turnip, and to ſow graſs ſeeds. Since that period there has been a great ſpirit of induſtry and improvement. As lime anſwers well with their land, they have been in the practice for ſeveral years of bringing it from a great diſtance. Some of them bring it at leaſt 12 ſtatute miles. Hence the quantity of grain produced at preſent is far greater than what was produced 30 years ago. At preſent the pariſhes can ſpare annually, at an average, about 500 bolls, part in oats and oatmeal; but the greateſt part, bear in grain, which is carried to Brechin and Montroſe. The beginning of our ſeed-time here is very various, owing to the ſpring ſnow lying long near the bottom of the hills. Generally we begin to ſow oats before

before the middle of March, and bear about the middle of April. In the years 1782, 1785, 1788, and 1789, April was begun, and the firſt eight days of it near gone, before there was any ſowing here. But in 1787, 1790, and 1791, ſome of our farmers began to ſow peaſe and oats in February, and all of them in the firſt and ſecond week of March.

The beginning of harveſt here is alſo various. Generally it begins about the firſt or ſecond week of September, and is finiſhed before the firſt of November, and all the corns got in. But in the year 1782, there was no reaping till the 3d of October, and it was the 20th of November before all the corns were got in. Crop 1782 in this place, as in the greateſt part of the kingdom, turned out very unproductive. The ſnow and froſt came on before the corns were ripened. However, with what the people had reſerved of the former crop, and with the ſcanty ſupply which crop 1782 afforded, they were able to ſubſiſt till crop 1783 came in aid, without ſeeking any aſſiſtance from abroad; or at leaſt, if a ſmall portion of meal was brought from Montroſe, and ſome bolls of ſeed-oats bought, there was more ſold out of the pariſhes, to people who came from Dee ſide, and other places. It is the practice of many in theſe pariſhes to have their girnals or meal-cheſts always pretty full, that they may be prepared againſt a bad crop. Experience has taught them this precaution, becauſe the harveſts here are often precarious, and the corns ſuffer either by wind, or by the winter coming on before they are fully ripened. There is but little flax raiſed here. It does not generally ripen ſufficiently, to tempt a farmer to riſk many acres on its cultivation. Yet moſt of the farmers in the lower part of the pariſhes ſow a peck or two for the uſe of their own families, and they reckon it a tolerable crop, if they have between two and three ſtone after the peck of lintſeed. The ſtone

conſiſts

conſiſts of 24 lb. Engliſh, or 22 lb. Amſterdam. There is no *common* paſture except the hills.

Diſadvantages.—Among the diſadvantages to which this place is expoſed, may be reckoned a long continuance of ſnow in the ſpring, by which the operations of huſbandry are interrupted, and the ſeed-time retarded; and on this account, our corns are but ſeldom ſo well ripened as thoſe in the low country. While good oats in the low country yield ſixteen pecks of meal *per* boll, we reckon them good here, if they yield fifteen. The winters here are always more ſevere than in the low country, and our farmers are often interrupted in their operations by ſtorms, while thoſe to the ſouthward of the hills can plow and cart. Beſides they frequently ſuffer very conſiderably in ſevere winters and ſprings by the loſs of ſheep and lambs. Our diſtance from Brechin, which is the neareſt market-town being five computed miles, and the road acroſs the ſteep hill of Caterthun, often rendered impaſſable for horſes by the ſnow, may be reckoned another diſadvantage under which this country labours.

Stipend, &c.—The ſtipend is L. 51, 19 s. Sterling, and 16 bolls oatmeal. The glebe may be eſtimated now at five guineas yearly. The church is probably two or three hundred years old. It was covered with lead until the year 1742, and then ſlated. A miniſter of the pariſh, ſo many years ago, that neither his name nor the period of his incumbency is remembered, lived and died a bachelor, and having money, he bequeathed it to cover the church with lead. It is ſaid, that his body lies interred in a ſtone coffin in the eaſt end of the church. As to the manſe, it is but a modern edifice. It was built about the 1723. The King is patron of the pariſh.

School.

School.—There are two ſchools within the pariſhes; the eſtabliſhed ſchool, and another founded on private donation. The pariſh ſchoolmaſter's living conſiſts of 100 merks Scots, paid by the heritors and tenants, fees for baptiſms, marriages, and ſchool-fees, and may be eſtimated at L. 11 or L. 12. For a few months in winter, the number of ſcholars is ſometimes above 40, but through the ſpring and ſummer, only about a dozen attend the ſchool. Reading, writing, and arithmetic, are the only branches taught. The other ſchool, which is fixed on the Weſt-water about four computed miles from the former, is kept only during the winter half-year. This ſchool was firſt erected about 1750, and a fund of 500 merks Scots, appointed for ſupporting a teacher, which fund, about two years ago, received an addition of L. 20 Sterling.

Poor.—Our number of poor at preſent is eight. They are ſupplied by our Sabbath-collections, and the intereſt of a fund of L. 460, a proviſion abundantly ſufficient to anſwer all reaſonable demands. Our weekly collections have been continuing to riſe gradually for ſome years. Our funds being ſo conſiderable, we judged it improper to apply for any of the Government's bounty in 1783. About 50 years ago, it was common for upwards of 20 young people belonging to the pariſhes to go a-begging in the winter-ſeaſon for want of employment and ſupport; whereas at preſent the farmers find it very difficult to procure either at home, or from a diſtance, a ſufficiency of young people to ſerve them. There is not a perſon belonging to theſe pariſhes permitted at preſent to go a-begging.

Prices.—The price of an ox, 40 or 50 years ago, was L. 2, 10; ſuch an ox would now ſell at L. 6, 15. An old ewe ſold formerly at 1s. 1d.; ſuch an ewe would now ſell

ſell at 4s. 6d. or 5s. A good wedder ſold formerly at 3s. 6d. or 4s.; ſuch a wedder would now give 11s. Mutton and beef ſold formerly at 1d. *per* lb.; it now ſells at 4d. Sheep were formerly cotted or lodged in a houſe ſummer and winter, a mode of treatment much againſt their proſperity. Cattle were formerly fed on bear-chaff and bear-ſhag, by which is meant the refuſe of the bear which did not ſtand the wind; at preſent they are fed on turnips, hay and ſheaves of ſhort oats. A good hen ſold formerly at 4d.; ſuch a hen would at preſent bring 10d. Butter ſold formerly at 4d. *per* lb.; it now brings 9d. The pound here is 22 oz. Amſterdam, or 24 oz. Engliſh. A ſtone of cheeſe weighing 22 lb. Amſterdam, or 24 lb. Engliſh, ſold formerly at 3s.; it now brings 5s. and 5s. 6d. A boll of oats with fodder ſold formerly at 11s. 1⅓d.; it now ſells at 15s. A boll of bear in grain ſold formerly at 7s.; it now ſells at 13s. A boll of oat meal ſold formerly at 8s. 4d.; (during the years of ſcarcity indeed, in the end of the laſt century, meal ſold at 20d. *per* peck;) a boll of oat meal ſells now at 13s. 4d. Our boll is 8 ſtone Amſterdam.

Wages, &c.—A labouring man's wages *per* day about 40 years ago, were 2d. and his meat; his wages at preſent are 6d. and his meat. The wages of a hireman, that is, a man-ſervant hired for the half year, capable to hold the plough, and work with horſes, were formerly 16s. 8d.; ſuch a man's wages now are L. 3, or L. 3, 10s. A maid-ſervant's wages formerly were, for the ſummer half year, 10s. with bounties, by which is meant, an ell of linen, an apron and a ſhirt: Her wages for the winter half year were 5s. with ſame bounties; the reaſon why her wages were higher in ſummer, was, becauſe ſhe reaped in harveſt; a maid-ſervant's wages at preſent, for the ſummer half year,

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are L. 1, 5 s. with bounties of an ell of linen, apron and ſhirt, beſides, ſhe alſo ſtipulates for a week to herſelf, during which ſhe goes to her parents houſe and works for herſelf, and is allowed a peck of meal for maintenance during that week. Her wages for the winter half year are L. 1, with ſame bounties, week and meal. A tailor's wages formerly were 2 d. and meat; they are now 6 d. and meat. A weaver formerly charged at the rate of 1 d. *per* ell, for weaving cloth of a certain ſpecies; he now charges 3 d. *per* ell for ſimilar cloth. A pair of coarſe ſhoes formerly coſt 1 s.; ſuch kind of ſhoes now ſell at 3 s.

In this place, the common labourers, when married, have a ſmall ſettlement from a farmer, of about one and an half, or two acres, ſufficient to maintain two cows and 24 ſheep; the farmer does all neceſſary work for the land, in way of tilling, harrowing, leading home the corns, and bringing a certain quantity of fuel from the hills. The ſubtenant is always bound to ſerve the farmer in harveſt, and in the winter half year. The encouragement given him, upon the whole, is ſuch as may enable him to bring up a family without aſſiſtance from the poors funds. Though he have a riſing family of ſix children, the eldeſt under twelve, it would be thought ſtrange here, while he, his wife and children were well, if he ſhould deſire any ſupply. When the ſcheme of the ſituation of the labouring poor in England is conſidered, there occurs only one caſe in which a ſupply would be judged neceſſary here. The caſe is where the woman is deſerted by her huſband, and left with ſix children, four of them being too young to earn any thing: It is to be obſerved that children in this place become uſeful at eight or nine years of age: During ſummer they are employed as herds by ſubtenants. Thus their parents are freed from the charge of their maintenance; beſides they get a ſmall fee of about 5 s. It is to be obſerved alſo, that a

woman's

woman's work in this country turns to more account than it appears to do in England, and our mode of living is leſs expenſive. Such a woman as is mentioned in the above caſe, could gain, in this country, in the way of ſpinning, about 18 d. a-week, and manage her family-concerns. The young girls in this country, by the time they are 13 or 14 years old, can ſpin 5 or 6 haſps of yarn in the week: A woman that has nothing to interrupt her, ſpins about 12 haſps; the price for ſpinning a haſp is 3 d. Poor people here, inſtead of tea, ſugar and butter, live commonly on pottage and milk. It is only old, infirm or diſeaſed people, who are unable to work, and the ordinary poor, who receive ſupport from the poors funds. As for tradeſmen and artiſans, they have ſmall ſettlements from the farmers, of about 2 acres each: They are generally bound to reap in harveſt, and for ſome days work in the buſieſt time of ſummer. Upon the whole, by the accommodation of their ſmall ſettlements, and the profits of their occupations, they are enabled to live comfortably, and to bring up families. The lower claſs of people here, as well as thoſe above them, are, in general, ſober, induſtrious and frugal; and but few of them fail in early life to make proviſion for the infirmities of old age.

Antiquities, &c.—The remains of what is ſuppoſed to have been a Druidical temple, ſtill appear near the bottom of the hill of Wirran in Lethnot, and it is ſaid that there were formerly to be ſeen, the remains of other two in Navar. Though at preſent there is but very little wood in the pariſhes, it is plain that there muſt have been a good deal long ago, becauſe in many places where peats

are found, large trunks of black oak are alſo diſcovered.

Eminent Perſons.—Among thoſe worthy of being mentioned, James Black deſerves a place. This man, born in 1677, though his ſtation was originally mean, raiſed himſelf by his prudence and induſtry, and did more ſervice to his country than many of high rank and opulent fortunes. During his life he procured the building of the Gannachy bridge on the North Eſk, and contributed almoſt all the money that was neceſſary for that purpoſe; a bridge which at this day could not be built for leſs than L. 160; and at his death he left 50 merks Scots as a fund for its ſupport, beſides 1000 merks, for other uſeful and pious purpoſes, *viz.* 300 merks towards building a bridge at Balrownie, on the road that leads from this place to Brechin; as alſo 200 merks for the poor in the pariſh of Fettercairn, and 500 merks for ſupporting a ſchool in the Weſt-water, which has been already mentioned. On his tomb-ſtone the following inſcription is engraved.

No bridge on earth can be a paſs to heaven,
To generous deeds let yet due praiſe be given.

Fuel.—The general fuel of the pariſhes is turf, peat and heath. The providing of fuel here, is a work of great expence and labour, on account of the ſteepneſs of the hills, and the diſtance of the moſſy ground. Many of the farmers, and many alſo of the ſubtenants find it expedient to bring yearly a few coals from the port of Montroſe, diſtant 10 computed miles, which may be reckoned equal to 15 ſtatute miles. The boll there, weighing

ing 70 ſtone Amſterdam, coſts about 8s. On account of the high cuſtom-houſe duty at Montroſe, our people go ſometimes to Arbroath, which is at leaſt 4 ſtatute miles farther diſtant, where the coals are ſold from 18d. to 2s. cheaper the boll. It is ſurely partial, and therefore impolitic, to make the duty on coals higher at Montroſe than at Arbroath.

Roads and Bridges.—The roads within the pariſhes, though greatly improved within theſe laſt 20 years, are ſtill but indifferent. The people are very ſenſible of the advantage of good roads; this indeed may be always expected to be the caſe, where a ſpirit of induſtry and improvement prevails. The ſtatute-labour is exacted and allotted to roads within the pariſhes, and ſometimes to that great road without the pariſhes, which leads to Brechin. There are no turnpike roads within the pariſhes. There are no leſs than 7 bridges within the pariſhes, 2 of them of about 50 feet ſpan each. There does not ſeem any occaſion for more.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—Within theſe laſt 50 years, a great alteration has taken place in the manners, dreſs, and way of living of the people in this place. About 50 or 60 years ago, there was neither a ſpinning wheel nor a reel within the pariſhes. The rock and the ſpindle were then uſed, by which aw oman could ſpin at an average only $3\frac{1}{2}$ hiers in the day. They uſed then alſo, what was called the hand-reel, a machine equally ſlow for work. A woman can with as much eaſe at this day, ſpin 12 hiers, as a woman could have ſpun $3\frac{1}{2}$ hiers then. A hier is 240 threads, or rounds of the reel, each of them 91 inches long. About 50 years ago, neither buckles were uſed for ſhoes, nor metal buttons for clothes. There were then very few carts within

in the pariſhes. Loads were then carried on horſeback. Prior to the 1745, there was not a tea-kettle within the pariſhes, except the miniſter's; now there is not a farm-houſe without one, and ſeveral of the ſubtenants uſe the ſame piece of furniture. Formerly there was little beef or mutton uſed. Even a farmer's family thought themſelves ſufficiently provided in fleſh-meat with one old ewe killed about Chriſtmas. For ſuch a family at preſent 16 ſtone of beef, and 2 good ſheep are conſidered as a moderate proviſion. About 20 years ago, neither barn nor mill fanners for cleaning victual were to be ſeen; at preſent each of the three mills has a ſet of fanners, and there are but very few farmers, whoſe barns are not furniſhed with the ſame uſeful machine. There has alſo been within theſe 4 or 5 years, a barley-mill erected, much to the convenience of the neighbourhood. Formerly the people, eſpecially ſuch as were wealthy, lived frequently in fear leſt their houſes ſhould be broken, and their property plundered; at preſent they live ſo ſecure in ſome places, that, as is ſaid, they are ſeldom at the pains to bolt the door under night.

NUMBER II.

PARISH OF DUNBARTON.

(COUNTY OF DUNBARTON.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES OLIPHANT.

Name, Situation, Soil, &c.

THE ancient name of the pariſh was *Dun britton*, a Gaelic compound, ſignifying "the fortification of the Bri-"tons;" whence it appears that the caſtle has given name to the pariſh. This caſtle, ſituated on a moſt remarkable bitopped inſulated rocky hill, at the junction of the Clyde and Leven, is too well known to be particularly mentioned here. The pariſh lies in the county of Dunbarton, is the ſeat of a preſbytery, and belongs to the Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr. The form is nearly circular, extending in length from 2 to 3 miles, and in breadth from 1 to 2. Great part of the pariſh is flat, the remainder aſcends gradually to the neighbouring hills, with a ſouthern expoſure. The pariſh is bounded by the frith of Clyde on the ſouth, the water of Leven and pariſh of Cardroſs on the weſt, the pariſh of Bonhill on the north, and that of Weſt Kilpatrick on the eaſt.

Soil, &c.—The ſoil is fertile, but rather ſhallow. The air ſalubrious, excepting at times when a heavy fog riſes from and hovers over the Clyde and Leven. Fevers prevail very much. Many die of conſumptions, and the natural ſmall pox is very mortal. The ſpreading and mortality of theſe diſeaſes

diſeaſes are to be attributed to ill-aired and crowded low houſes, and to an over anxiety for conſtant prayers over the diſeaſed.

Rivers and fiſh.—The Leven is navigable by coaſting veſſels above the town of Dunbarton; ſo far up the tides riſe. Salmon and trout are taken in large quantities. The former frequently ſells ſo high as 1 s. 6 d. *per* lb. tron, on the ſpot, ſeldom falls below 6 d, and never below 4 d. Through the whole ſpring ſeaſon, the Leven ſalmon is excellent, but the Clyde is not fiſhed before Whitſunday. Trout generally ſells at 4 d. *per* pound. Very large eels, and a large ſpecies of flounder, are often caught by the ſalmon-fiſhers. A ſpecies of ſea animals, moſt deſtructive of the ſalmon, are almoſt every ſummer ſeaſon found in numbers, playing in the Clyde off the caſtle; they go up ſometimes two miles higher, but generally keep lower down. Theſe are called buckers, pellocks, or porpoiſes. The ſalmon fiſhery employs 16 men.

Population.—According to the returns made from hence to Dr Webſter about 1750, this pariſh then contained 1427 ſouls. In 1790, the number of examinable perſons above ſix years of age was found to amount to about 2000 (103 above 70 years of age, and two near 100,) of whom 1850 reſided in the town of Dunbarton, and 153 in the country part of the pariſh. In that year 86 were baptiſed, 58 were buried, and 30 couples married. From the regiſters, it appears, that in 1644, 44 died; in 1654, 33, in 1664, 42: In 1690, 73 were baptiſed, 50 died, and 12 couples were married. The increaſe of population is to be attributed to the eſtabliſhment of glaſs-works in the town, and of printfields in the neighbourhood. Almoſt the whole

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of the inhabitants are of the eſtabliſhed church, there not being above half a dozen ſeceders in the pariſh.

Manufactures.—The miniſter's daughters manufacture nuns thread to a great extent. There is in the town a conſiderable crown and bottle glaſs manufactory, which employs 130 hands, and pays L. 3,800 *per annum*, of duties to Government. The extenſive printfields in the neighbouring pariſhes employ about 86 inhabitants of the town of Dunbarton.

Town of Dunbarton.—This town was erected into a royal burgh by King Alexander the II. in 1221; it lies on the eaſt bank of the Leven, has a good harbour, where large brigs lie ſafe in all weathers. About 2000 tons of ſhipping belong to this place, which employ 70 ſeamen. The town is entirely free of all impoſts or borough taxes; but is by no means in a flouriſhing or increaſing ſtate, owing to the letters of deaconry preventing ſtrangers from working at their trades, without coſtly entries. Several families have removed from Dunbarton to Renton, Bonhill, and other new villages, to be nearer the printfields where they are employed. There are about 130 handy-craftſmen, freemen of the burgh, beſides the maſters of the tailor, hammerman, ſhoemaker, weaver, and cooper trades.

Heritors, &c.—There are in the pariſh 52 heritors, about 40 of whom reſide; 21 farmers, beſides ſeveral ſmall portioners, 130 handicraftſmen, 78 apprentices and journeymen, 2 ſtudents of divinity, 1 miniſter, 7 attornies, and 3 ſurgeons.

Productions, &c.—The productions of this pariſh are wheat, oats, barley, and a little flax; perhaps one third of the

the ground may be in ſown graſs and paſture, about 100 acres in growing woods and planting, and there may be 200 acres of commonty belonging to the town, to which the burgeſſes may ſend their cows or horſes for about 7 s. a year. The pariſh does not ſupply the tenth part of the proviſions conſumed in it. Great quantities of corn, meal and butter, are imported from Ireland, and of cheeſe from Ayrſhire. Eggs are generally ſold at 4 d. the dozen, butter 9 d. the pound, beef 6 d. mutton 6 d. hens 1 s. each.

Wheat is ſown in October, November, December, or even January, and reaped generally in Auguſt. Oats are ſown from the end of March, to the middle of April, and reaped the end of Auguſt, September, ſometimes not till the beginning of October. Barley is ſown the end of May, or beginning of June, and reaped in Auguſt or September.

Rent.—Houſe rent is not low. The town's fiſhing on the Leven yields at preſent a rent of L. 55, and on the Clyde, of L. 23 yearly. The laſt ſet yielded L. 140 a year, and theſe fiſhings were once let ſo high as L. 300 a-year. Small parcels of land are often transferred. A piece of ground of four acres, lately ſold here, brought a price of L. 472; but that was a ſingular caſe.

Fuel.—The fuel generally uſed is coal, brought from Glaſgow or Knightswood, four miles below that town: A cart of coals, containing 12 cwt. coſts 3 s. 6 d. ready money at Glaſgow, pays 1 s. 1¾ d. of freight and dues, for deepening the Clyde, and 1½ d. cartage from the quay, total 4 s. 9¼ d. Peats are dear, 2 s. the ſmall cart, and only uſed for kindling the fire.

Stipend, &c.—The right of patronage to the church lies in the magiſtrates and town-council; the ſtipend is, 100 bolls

bolls of meal, 20 bolls of barley, 6 ſtone of ſalmon, and L. 27 in money, with L. 7 in lieu of a glebe. There never was a legal manſe here. Mr William Blair, who was miniſter here in 1620, bequeathed a houſe for the reſidence of his ſucceſſors in office in all time coming, on condition of the town-council's upholding the ſame. This houſe was afterwards exchanged for a better, and the laſt for one ſtill more ſo, above L. 150 having been given by the town for the excambions. The council alſo pay for communion-elements, and for the whole reparations of the miniſter's houſe, and of the ſchool. The church and church-yard walls are kept in repair by the kirk-ſeſſion.

Poor.—The number of poor receiving alms is about 70; the annual amount of contributions at the church-doors, for their ſupport, is L. 53 or L. 54; the hire of the mort-cloths produces L. 7 or L. 8; about L. 6, 6s. are received by the publication of banns, and about L. 9 from the rent of ſeats in the church. Beſides theſe, a large ſum was bequeathed in 1660, by Sir John Buchanan of that ilk, to the poor of the pariſh: Several loſſes from the principal have been ſuſtained, but there ſtill remains L. 851, the intereſt of which (excepting L. 10, paid to two public ſchoolmaſters,) is religiouſly applied to the relief of the poor. Sir James Smollet of Bonhill in 1732, mortified 50 merks a-year, to be diſtributed immediately after the ſacrament, to ſuch of the poor as were communicants. The whole annual diſtributions amount to above L. 110.

Prices of Labour.—Common labourers receive 1s. a-day; carpenters 1s. 8d.; maſons ſometimes 2s.; joiners 1s. 6d.; tailors 8 d. and victuals; linen-printers commonly earn 21s. a-week, not including extra work; many of the glaſs-houſe men 25s. a-week.; girls flowering muſlin can

make 1 s. a-day and upwards. Male-ſervants wages in general are high; female-ſervants receive generally 30 s. the half year, and ſome of them more. Common labourers may bring up their familiesc omfortably, if they are induſtrious and temperate.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—It is very advantageous to the heritors and their tenants, that being ſo near a ſea-port town, they have high prices, in ready money, for every thing they raiſe, and are employed with their horſes, almoſt as often as they chuſe, or can be ſpared from huſbandry. There are excellent roads through all the pariſh made by the military, and no turnpikes, except one on the way to Glaſgow. School fees are very low, ſo that almoſt every perſon has an opportunity of following any branch of learning. Packets ſail every day to Greenock and Port Glaſgow; and a ſtage-coach ſets out three times a-week to Glaſgow. The chief diſadvantage is the high price of fuel.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The people are very fond of a ſea-faring life; many enliſt in the army, chiefly in the artillery, and in the highland regiments. The advantages of ſociety are enjoyed; but here, as in many other places, a murmuring ſpirit often appears, and a diſpoſition to cenſure public meaſures. Many of the people are expenſive, eſpecially in the article of whiſky. There are three fairs held in this pariſh, at which there uſed to be expoſed great quantities of linen-yarn; numbers of ſheep, cows, horſes, and great herds of highland cattle are ſtill ſold. There is plenty of free ſtone, both of a white and red colour. The ſhore is flat and ſandy, not a ſtone to be ſeen along it, except ſuch as have fallen from the caſtle-hill. The common ſea-weed is often uſed for manure, by the farmers neareſt to the coaſt.

NUM-

NUMBER III.

PARISH OF TULLYNESSLE.

(County of Aberdeen.)

By the Rev. Mr Andrew Marshall.

Name, Situation, &c.

TULLYNESSLE, the ancient and modern name of the pariſh, is evidently derived from the Gaelic, in which language *Tully* ſignifies "a dwelling," *eſsle* "upon "a ſloping bank," correſponding to the local ſituation of this place: Perhaps, however, it may have originally been called *Tullyn'eſſet*, that is, "a dwelling on the burn of "Eſſet," a ſmall ſtream in the pariſh. Tullyneſsle lies in the county and Synod of Aberdeen, and Preſbytery of Alford; is about 4 miles in length, and 2½ in breadth; being bounded by the pariſhes of Keig, Alford, Forbes, Clatt, and Leſlie. The appearance of the country is hilly, or rather mountainous; at leaſt it is bounded by a pretty extenſive chain of mountains. The ſoil in general is a loam, very capable of improvement, and the arable land is compoſed of gentle ſlopes upon the declivity of hills, with ſome interjected flats. The hills are in many places ſtony, but none of them rocky; their ſoil is, for the moſt part, dry and barren, covered with heath. The air is pure and healthy, conſequently few epidemical diſtempers appear.

Rivers.

Rivers.—The pariſh is bounded on the ſouth ſide for above a mile by the river Don, which here is of conſiderable breadth, but ſhallow, with a quick current. All the neighbouring ſtreams abound with fine trout, and a good many ſalmon are caught in the Don, though, owing to the erection of cruives near its mouth, they are not ſo plenty as would otherwiſe have been the caſe. The pariſh is very partially expoſed to land floods.

Minerals.—There is abundance of very good moorſtone, which dreſſes remarkably well for building; there are quarries of blue moorſtone or granite, ſimilar to thoſe about Aberdeen; likewiſe there is a white moorſtone of a very fine grain, which can be hewn for moſt purpoſes to which freeſtone is applied, but this kind is only found in ſingle blocks, in a very broken irregular quarry. A grey micaceous flag-ſtone of a good ſize is alſo to be got in the pariſh.

Animals.—The common breed of black cattle in this pariſh is a middling, or rather ſmall ſized, hardy kind, weighing from 18 to 30 ſtone Amſterdam; they improve very much when carried into richer paſture, and conſequently bring good prices from the drovers, who begin to pick them up early in ſpring, and continue buying through the ſummer. Mr Leith of Whitehaugh, who farms a great portion of his own eſtate, nearly one third of the pariſh, has, for ſeveral years paſt, been at uncommon pains to improve the breed of cattle, and has now ſo far attained his purpoſe, that moſt of the gentlemen and ſubſtantial farmers in the neighbourhood have thought it worth while to poſſeſs themſelves of a few of his breed, which are of a pretty large ſize, very handſome, and remarkably well horned. There may be in the pariſh 390

head

head of cattle, 695 ſheep, and 85 horſes. Of wild animals, there are plenty of hares, a few deer of the roe kind, and too many foxes. The hills abound with grouſe and plover, the flat parts of the country with patridges, ſnipes, wild ducks, and almoſt every kind of birds commonly found in the north of Scotland; but neither raven, rook, nor jackdaw, have been allowed to breed in the pariſh for ſeveral years paſt.

Population.—About 1750, according to the returns made to Dr Webſter, the number of the inhabitants of this pariſh was 269. They have ſince increaſed; for in January 1791 the number was found to be 188 males, 208 females, 396 individuals, of whom there were

Under 10 years of age, -	55
From 10 to 20, -	103
From 20 to 50, -	163
From 50 to 70, -	59
From 70 to 94 -	16

all of the eſtabliſhed church. The annual average of births is 3, of deaths 3, and of marriages 2. The population has, however, diminiſhed of late years, partly owing to ſeveral of the inhabitants having been allured by manufactures to remove to Aberdeen, partly by ſeveral of the young men going ſouthward in queſt of buſineſs, and better wages; and partly to the union of farms in one diſtrict of the pariſh. There are but two heritors in the pariſh, one of whom reſides.

Crops, Rent, &c.—Oats are generally ſown from the beginning of March till the middle of April, then barley, till the beginning or middle of May. The crops are in general reaped from the end of Auguſt, to the middle or end of October. The pariſh ſupplies itſelf fully with proviſions, and generally

generally ſends to market a good deal of meal, as alſo cheeſe, butter, poultry, and eggs. The rent of 2-3ds of the pariſh occupied by tenants, may amount to L. 254 : 10 : 4 in money, and 140 bolls of meal. The beſt infield land lets at an average for about 16s. 8d. the acre; inferior about 10 s. and outfield from 2 s. 6d. to 5 s. according to its quality; but, in general, the tenants pay in meal, in place of money, for the outfield grounds. Land is ſold at an average at 25 years purchaſe; but no change of property has taken place in this pariſh for many years, or is likely to happen for many more.

Prices, Wages, &c.—It may without exaggeration be aſſerted, that the prices of proviſions are double, if not triple, of what they were about 30 years ago. About that time, an ox ſold for 20 s. which now coſts at leaſt L. 5, or L. 6; ſheep, 3 s. to 4 s. for the beſt wedders; now the common price is from 6 s. to 10 s. 6 d.; 2 s. 6d. to 3s. for the beſt ewes and lambs; now they fetch from 5 s. to 7 s. or more. Hens then ſold for 3 d. now 6 d.; eggs 1 d. the 14, now 2 d. the dozen; meal was ſold in general for 6 s. 8 d. the boll, now it ſells from 10 s. to 12 s.

The ordinary wages given to labourers when hired by the day are 6 d.; tailors 5 d. or 6 d; wrights 8 d.; maſons 1 s. 2 d.; all excluſive of victuals. The annual wages of men-ſervants employed by farmers, are in general above L. 5; of women-ſervants, from L. 2, to L. 2, 10 s. Thirty years ago, the wages of the former run from L. 1 : 6 : 8, to L. 1, 13 s. 4 d. Harden cloth ſold for 2½d. the ell, (it now ſells for 8 d. or 9 d.,) and ſhoes for 1 d. the inch in length.

Condition of Labourers.—Thoſe labourers who continue able to work, may and do bring up their families tolerably well.

well. All have a kail yard; almoſt all a ſmall piece of ground in tillage. The ſtraw of the crop maintains a cow in winter, which grazes with the farmers cattle during the ſummer, and many of them have alſo a few ſheep kept upon the farm, or by ſome perſon in the neighbourhood, for a mere trifle. A good deal of money is gained by knitting ſtockings, the general employment of the women: Young children might alſo be employed to advantage in that branch; but as there are few incloſures, moſt of them are occupied in looking after every ſmall parcel of ſheep or cattle, during 3-4ths of the year. Hence a labourer's family, while in health, rarely needs aſſiſtance.

Implements of Huſbandry.—There are a great many ploughs, owing to the number of ſmall farms, each of which muſt maintain a plough drawn by ſmall ſteers, or ſometimes by an intermixture of cows and horſes. The larger farms are plowed by 8 or 10 ſmall oxen; and the number of ploughs in all are between 30 and 40. There are about the ſame number of carts, ſuited to the ſize of the horſes; but it is not above 30 years ſince carts began to be uſed in the pariſh.

Stipend, Poor, &c.—The value of the living, including the glebe, is only about L. 54 a-year; part of it is compoſed of the vicarage-teind, which is paid to the miniſter in kind. The church was rebuilt about 12 years ago, and the manſe was built in 1724. The Earl of Fife is patron. The number of poor receiving ſtated alms is 4, though there are others who get occaſional ſupplies. The annual amount of contributions for the ſupport of the poor, is about L. 4, 10 s. beſides the intereſt of L. 40.

Miſcellaneous

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The general ſize of the people is from 5 feet 5 inches to 5 feet 10 inches, a few are below, but many above thoſe ſizes. They are ſlender, active and hardy, differing conſiderably in make and figure from the people on the ſouth of the Grampians. They are induſtrious, humane, œconomical, and enjoy the comforts of ſociety in a reaſonable degree, and in proportion to their rank and circumſtances. Their condition might, however, be meliorated, if the proprietors would give longer leaſes; oblige the tenants to adopt more modern and productive plans of farming; furniſh them at firſt, with turnip and graſs ſeeds; bind them to incloſe, and improve a certain portion of ground annually, and allow them the expence of the incloſures at the expiry of their leaſes. The roads are in better repair in this than in moſt other pariſhes; the ſtatute labour has hitherto been exacted in kind; and although a commutation has been propoſed, it has not, in general, been agreed on as the moſt proper mode for this country.—The bear crop in 1782 was tolerably good, but oats and potatoes almoſt totally failed. The principal heritor took a good deal of trouble in procuring victual, as alſo grain and potatoes for ſeed; hence the pariſh was as well ſupplied as any in the neighbourhood. The fuel generally made uſe of, is turf and heath from the hills, there being very little peat to be got in the pariſh. Heath is particularly uſed in kiln-drying, brewing, and baking. About 30 years ago, charred peat was ſo univerſally uſed by the blackſmiths, that few could work with any thing elſe. But now they uſe coal only, over all the country.

NUM-

NUMBER IV.

PARISH OF AUCHTERARDER.

(County of Perth.)

By the Rev. Mr Andrew Duncan.

Name, Situation, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.

THE ancient and modern name of the parish is the same. It is derived from the principal village or town in it, and signifies the "summit of the rising ground;" which describes exactly the situation of the village, which is built on the ridge of an eminence in the middle of Strathern, and commands on the N. and E. an extensive prospect of the adjacent country. The parish has united with it, that of Aberuthven, which lies upon the E. *Aberuthven* signifies the "mouth of the Ruthven," and it is in this parish that the small river of Ruthven discharges itself into the Earn. The annexation of the two parishes seems to have taken place some considerable time before the Revolution, and the distinction of the two, is now so much forgotten, that they never go by any other name than that of Auchterarder. Auchterarder is situated in the county of Perth, in the presbytery of Auchterarder, and in the Synod of Perth and Stirling: It is of an irregular form; its greatest extent from E. to W. is about 5 measured miles, and from N. to S. nearly the same; it is bounded on the W. by the parish of Blackford, on the N. by Trinity-Gask,

on the E. by Dunning, and on the S. by Glendovan and Foſſaway. The greateſt part of the pariſh is a flat and level country, lying on the ſouth of the river Earn; it alſo includes in it ſome part of the Ochil hills, particularly Craigroſſie, one of the higheſt of them. Theſe hills are all green, and good ſheep-paſture. Almoſt the whole of the low part of the pariſh is arable, and a good, though not a ſtrong ſoil; on the banks of the Earn it inclines to a loam, but in general it is dry and light, requiring ſuch a ſtimulus as lime or marl, and rewarding well whatever expence is laid out in that way. It may be farther obſerved, that the northern declivity of the hills is arable a conſiderable way upwards, and there is the ſtrongeſt reaſon to believe that in former ages the hills have been plowed in many places to the very ſummit; the ridges are ſtill plain and diſtinct.

Air.—The air is dry and good in ſummer, but rather moiſt and damp in winter, as is the caſe in the greateſt part of Strathern, particularly in the neighbourhood of the Ochils. In the winter months the ſun has not influence ſufficient to diſſipate the vapours which are attracted by the hills, and the moſt frequent winds blowing from them, muſt neceſſarily occaſion a moiſture in the air. This, one ſhould think, would give riſe to rheumatiſms, and ſimilar diſorders, as it does in ſome inſtances; yet it cannot be ſaid that rheumatiſm is a prevalent diſtemper here; and it is remarkable that of late years ſcarcely an inſtance of a perſon afflicted with the ague has occurred; the diſorder which has been moſt prevalent and fatal for ſome years paſt, is a fever of the nervous kind.

Rivers.—The Earn, which bounds the pariſh on the N. produces ſalmon, and the large white and yellow trout; it

it beautifies the pariſh as well as the adjacent country, but is ſometimes prejudicial to the neighbouring tenants, by overflowing its banks in the harveſt. The Ruthven, which takes its riſe in the hills, about 3 miles beyond the weſt boundaries of the pariſh, is a beautiful little river, and particularly uſeful to this pariſh; it runs with an uniform and conſtant ſtream through the whole length of it from the S. W. to the N. E. and turns the 11 mills in the pariſh, to be afterwards deſcribed; it abounds with a ſpecies of trout peculiar to itſelf, of a ſmall ſize, but remarkable for flavour and delicacy.

Stone and Slate.—The pariſh, and particularly the neighbourhood of the village of Auchterarder, abounds with a hard and durable ſtone, which, lying in thin and regular ſtrata, is very fit both for building houſes and dry-ſtone fences; the quarries in the neighbourhood of the town alſo afford grey ſlate in abundance, which makes a roof greatly preferable to thatch, but heavier than the blue ſlate.

Population.—The antient ſtate of the population cannot be aſcertained with any degree of exactneſs; the number of people ſeems to have been increaſing by ſlow degrees till the preſent time; the return to Dr Webſter was 1194, they amount at preſent to 1670 ſouls, of which 805 are males, and 865 are females; 798 reſide in the villages of Auchterarder, Berland-park and Miltown, and 872 in the country: The average number of births cannot be aſcertained with great exactneſs, owing to ſome diſſenting parents neglecting to get their childrens names inſerted in the pariſh-regiſter, or refuſing to pay the clerk's dues; but making allowance for that omiſſion, the annual average of births, for the laſt ten years, is 38; for the ten years from

1770

1770 to 1780 is 40; and for the ten years from 1760 to 1770 is no leſs than 48; a conſiderable number of the married women in the pariſh being now advanced in life, accounts for this diminution in the annual number of births. The annual average of burials for the laſt ten years is 36, and of marriages, 11. The number of ſouls under ten years of age is 341; from ten to twenty, 342; from twenty to fifty, 681; from fifty to ſeventy, 266; and from ſeventy to a hundred, 40. The number of heritors and feuars is 52; the four principal heritors do not reſide in the pariſh. The number of farmers and occupiers of land is 82; of weavers, 49; of mechanics, 78; of male-ſervants, 109; of female-ſervants, 120. Beſides the Eſtabliſhed Clergyman, there is one Relief Miniſter, who reſides in the pariſh; one writer, and one ſurgeon. The number of ſouls in the Eſtabliſhed Church is 1176, and of Seceders, including thoſe of the Relief perſuaſion, 492; there are only two Epiſcopalians.

The population of the pariſh is not materially different from what it was 5, 10, or 25 years ago; but is rather on the increaſe, owing principally to the acceſſion of inhabitants to the villages from other pariſhes. The proportion of the annual births to the whole population, is as 1 to 38; of the annual marriages, nearly as 1 to 151; of the annual deaths, nearly as 1 to 46; of bachelors to married men, including widowers, as 1 to 5. Each marriage produces at an average, nearly 4 children. There are no uninhabited houſes; of inhabited houſes there are 303, and the number of perſons, at an average, to each inhabited houſe, is upwards of 5.

Produce, &c.—The pariſh produces wheat, oats, barley, peaſe, hay, potatoes, and turnip, with the common kitchen herbs and roots. The different kinds of fir, the oak, aſh, elm,

elm, beech, alder, birch and elder grow in it; but there are no extenſive plantations of any of theſe kinds. A few hundred acres have of late been planted with the common fir. Beſides the domeſtic animals, the numbers of which in the diſtrict could not be aſcertained, as the tenants ſhewed an averſion to diſcover their ſtock, there are plenty of hares and patridges; there are the hedge-hog, otter, polecat and fox. The ſheep-farmers uſed formerly to keep up their ſtock by purchaſing hogs every year at Linton market; but they have now begun, and it is believed with ſucceſs, to rear their own lambs, and of courſe they require a ſmaller ſupply from the ſouth country. Horſes and black cattle are reared on almoſt every farm of the pariſh. In general, it may be obſerved, that oats and barley are the principal productions of the pariſh. Every farmer ſows a proportion of peaſe and lint-ſeed, and plants potatoes; ſeveral of them ſow turnip, and this crop is becoming every year more frequent, becauſe its value is better known; all of them lay down a greater or leſs quantity of ground in artificial graſs, which, after being cut for two or three years, partly for immediate uſe, and partly to be made into hay, is afterwards paſtured for two or three years more. Wheat is ſown in ſome farms in the low part of the pariſh, and might with equal advantage be ſown in others; but it is thought to be a crop rather too ſevere for the greateſt part of the ſoil, and a good crop of barley is conſidered as not leſs profitable, becauſe it impoveriſhes the ground leſs.

It is to be doubted whether the pariſh ſupplies itſelf in the article of flour; but there can be no doubt that it exports a conſiderable quantity both of barley-grain and oatmeal, and raiſes a great deal more beef and mutton than it conſumes. The tenants generally begin to ſow peaſe and oats about the middle of March, if the weather prove favourable,

vourable, and conclude the making of their barley ſowing about the 25th of May. Harveſt commonly begins, in the low part of the pariſh, the firſt or ſecond week of September, and in the hills extends to the end of October or beginning of November.

There is only a ſmall quantity of ground occupied by woods and rivers, and none at all by foreſts, lakes or marſhes. There are a few hundred acres in common on the weſt end of the village of Auchterarder, called the moor of Auchterarder, to which the cows of the inhabitants go to paſture. In its preſent ſtate it is of no great value; were it improved, and the ſouthern part eſpecially is very capable of improvement, the value of it would be vaſtly increaſed. There are alſo ſeveral hundred acres upon the hill of Foſswell (part of the Ochils) in common among the neighbouring feuars: Both commons may perhaps contain 12 or 14 hundred acres. Very little land lets above, or even at 20s. the acre, except in the immediate neighbourhood of the town. Marl has been found in different parts of the pariſh, but as the parcels hitherto diſcovered have been in no great quantity, they are already exhauſted.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The pariſh has a peculiar advantage in the ſmall river of Ruthven, which runs through it from one end to the other; and at all ſeaſons of the year, conveys ſuch a quantity of water, as is ſufficient to turn the machinery of any ordinary mill. Beſides four corn-mills, there are already erected on it, three lint mills, two oil-mills, a paper and a fulling mill; and, with little expence any kind of mill might be erected on it, which does not require a great weight of water. It is perhaps alſo an advantage to the pariſh, that the direct road runs through it, which leads from Perth, Aberdeen, and the Eaſt country, to Stirling and Glaſgow.

The

The village of Auchterarder labours under the diſadvantage of not having a conſtant ſupply of water. The ſtream which runs through it being brought a conſiderable way from the town, is dry in the ſummer-ſeaſon; and the greateſt part of the inhabitants are then obliged to bring their water from an inconvenient diſtance. Pit-wells have been ſunk in different parts of the town, but without ſucceſs. A propoſal has been lately made for bringing in pipes from the fountain-head; but to this ſcheme the conſent of the Honourable Proprietor of the eſtate of Perth is requiſite, as the ſpring lies in his ground; this, with his pecuniary aid, has been ſolicited, and both it is hoped will be granted: The advantage to the town in general, and to his feuars in particular, would be unſpeakable. But without the aſſiſtance of others, the inhabitants are unable themſelves to accompliſh ſo expenſive a work, as to bring water, even in wooden pipes, from the fountain-head to the bottom of the town, which is a diſtance of nearly 2 miles.

Price of Proviſions and Labour.—The price of beef and mutton, about 50 or 60 years ago, was 9 d. or 10 d. a ſtone; of barley and oat-meal, 8 s. 4 d. Butter ſold at 4 d. a-pound, and cheeſe at 2 d.; hens at 3 d. or 4 d. a-piece. At preſent beef ſells at 3 d. a-pound; mutton at 4 d. during the ſummer; veal and pork, in their ſeaſon, at 4 d. Butter commonly ſells at 8 d. a-pound, and cheeſe at 4 s. 3 d. a-ſtone. Hens at 10 d. or 1 s. a-piece, and chickens at 3½ d. or 4 d. The wages of labourers in huſbandry and other work, is 1 s. a-day in ſummer, and 10 d. in winter; of carpenters, 1 s. 2 d.; of maſons, 1 s. 6 d.; and of tailors, 1 s. There are no male-ſervants in the pariſh, but ſuch as are employed in huſbandry, and their wages are from L. 7 to L. 8 the year. Female-ſervants work as occaſion requires, either within or without doors, and they get about

L. 2, 10 s. yearly Herd-boys get from 12 s. to 20 s. during the time that cattle are sent out to pasture. The annual wages of a common labourer, which will amount to nearly L. 14, are, in general, if he be industrious, and his family healthy, sufficient to enable him to bring up a family.

STATEMENT of the annual Income and Expences of a Day-labourer in the Parish of Auchterarder, who has a Wife and Seven Children, the eldest of whom is a Girl of 13 Years of age, and the second a Boy who tended cattle last Season. Along with his Dwelling-house, he rents an Acre of Land.

INCOME.

The father of the family has 1 s. a-day of wages, for 8 months in the year, and 10 d. the remaining 4 months. Deducting 43 days, of Sundays, holidays, and bad weather, from the summer-months, and 30 days on the same account, from the winter-months, he gains, during the whole year, -	L. 13	17	0
The mother, with the assistance of her eldest girl, in the management of her family, earns by spinning 1 s. 6 d. a-week, which is a-year,	3	18	0
The eldest boy earned by tending cattle,		18	0
The acre of land produced last year, 6 firlots of oats at 13 s. 6 d. the boll, -	1	0	3
——— 4 bolls of barley, at 14 s. the boll,	2	16	0
——— 6 bolls and 2 firlots potatoes, at 4 s. which is L. 1, 6 s.—He sold a calf at 7 s.	1	13	0
	L. 24	2	3

EX-

EXPENCES.

Rent of his houſe and land, L. 3; expences of ſeed and management, L. 1, 5,	L. 4	5	0
Fuel, L. 1, 5 s.; 8 bolls and 2 firlots of oat-meal at 14 s. 6 d. a-boll, L. 6 : 3 : 3,	7	8	3
4 bolls of barley-meal at 9 s. 4 d. the boll,	1	17	4
The father's wear of clothes, -	0	10	0
2 ſhirts, 7 s.; 2 pair ſhoes, 10 s.; 2 pair ſtockings, 4 s. 6 d.; wear of a bonnet and handkerchief, 1 s. annually,	1	2	6
The mother's wear of clothes, 4 s.; 1 ſhift, 2 s. 6 d.; 2 aprons, 2 s. 3 d. -	0	8	9
Wear of ſhoes and ſtockings, 4 s.; hand-kerchiefs, caps, &c. 3 s. -	0	7	0
1 pair of ſhoes to each of 7 children, 14 s. 2 d.; clothes to the 3 youngeſt, 9 s. -	1	3	2
Clothes to the 2 next in age, 8 s.; ditto to the 2 eldeſt, 10 s. - -	0	18	0
1 ſhirt to each of the 3 youngeſt, 2 s.; 1 ditto to the 2 next in age, 2 s. 6 d. -	0	4	6
1 ditto to the 2 eldeſt, 3 s. 4 d.; 8 lb. of ſoap, 4 s. 8 d.; butcher-meat, 18 s. -	1	6	0
4 pecks ſalt, 3 s. 4 d.; 3 Scots pints of lamp-oil, 3 s. 6 d.; candle, 2 s. 2 d.	0	9	0
Beſides the milk, butter and cheeſe, the cow yielded, he bought laſt year 2 ſtone cheeſe,	0	8	0
Molaſſes for making a kind of ale, 4 s. 6 d.; groats and barley, 7 s. -	0	11	6
Expences at in-lying, ſickneſs, &c. 15 s.; needles, pins and thread, 10 d.	0	15	10
Carried forward,	L. 21	14	10

Brought forward,	L. 21	14	10
Whiſky, ſmall beer, and wheaten bread at the new year, - -	0	3	4
The family conſumes the potatoes which the land produces, - -	1	6	0
Graſs to the cow in ſummer, 10 s.; ſtraw to ditto, in winter, 6 s. -	0	16	0
	L. 24	0	2

The generality of labourers, along with their dwelling-houſe, have as much land as enables them to keep a cow, which encreaſes their means of ſubſiſtence.

Poor, Church, Stipend, &c.—The number of the poor is 13. They receive a weekly allowance; but beſides theſe, there are others who get occaſional charity, as their circumſtances may require. The annual amount of the collections at the church-door, of the intereſt of mortified money, and of proclamation-dues, is about L. 40 Sterling. The church was built in 1784. The value of the ſtipend, including the glebe, is about L. 90 Sterling. The Earl of Kinnoul is patron.

Villages.—There are 3 villages in the pariſh; the principal of which is Auchterarder, and which was once, perhaps, of greater note. That it was a royal burgh, and ſent a member to Parliament, cannot be doubted. Its name is to be ſeen in the old rolls of Parliament; and a great number of the houſes hold burgage to this day. How it came to loſe its privileges is not certainly known. Auchterarder conſiſts of one ſtreet nearly a mile long, and has in it about a hundred houſes: Many of them have been lately rebuilt, which adds much to the improvement of the

the town, and the accommodation of the inhabitants. Beſides four fairs every year, there has been a yearly tryſt held the beginning of October, ſince the year 1781, at which there has been always a great ſhew of black cattle. The preſent number of inhabitants is 594, and the population of the place is apparently on the increaſe; for there have been of late, ſeveral new houſes built, and more are building. Beſides the Eſtabliſhed Church, there is a Relief Meeting in the town. About 20 years ago, a conſiderable manufacture of yarn and narrow linen-cloth was carried on in Auchterarder. It was ſold bleached and unbleached, and exported to Glaſgow: But this trade is now in a great meaſure extinct. Sale linens are ſtill manufactured in the town and neighbourhood; and linen, of a fabric peculiar to the place, and which goes by its name. At a little diſtance from Auchterarder, is a village called the Borland Park, built by Government for the accommodation of the ſoldiers who were diſbanded after the war in 1763, and contains 140 inhabitants, who are moſtly weavers. Moſt of the ſoldiers who were planted in it, left it very ſoon afterwards, though the terms of their ſettlement were very advantageous, either from diſlike to the place, or more probably to their new mode of life. On the ſouth of Auchterarder, and along the ſide of the Ruthven, is Miltown, a ſmall village, containing 64 inhabitants. Here there is a diſtillery, conſiſting of two 40 gallon-ſtills.

Antiquities.—In the neighbourhood of Auchterarder, and on the N. of the town, are the remains of an old caſtle, ſaid to be a hunting ſeat of King Malcolm Kenmore; adjoining to which is a ſmall copſe wood, which commonly goes by the name of the King's Wood. The tenant has been unluckily allowed to grub up the wood, and to build a farm-houſe with the ſtones of the caſtle; and there are

now but inconſiderable veſtiges remaining of theſe venerable antiquities. A little to the northward of the caſtle, are the remains of a Popiſh place of worſhip, commonly known by the name of the Old Kirk, or St Mungo's Chapel. This was formerly the pariſh-church; and the church-yard was the burying ground of the pariſh: Many of the inhabitants ſtill retain burying places in it. There are ſome traces of encampments on the S. E. of the village of Auchterarder, at the foot of the Ochils. Perhaps they were out-poſts of the Roman camp at Ardoch; whatever they were, it ſeems probable the Romans were in this neighbourhood; for in digging the foundation of the church lately built in this place, a coin was found, of the Emperor Titus Veſpaſian, perfectly diſtinct. About 12 or 14 years ago, there was found in a marl-pit, in the pariſh, a pair of large horns, ſuppoſed to be of the Elk, or Eurus, which were ſent to Edinburgh, and are now in the cuſtody of the Antiquarian Society.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The people are, in general, much diſpoſed to induſtry. They are œconomical, and yet, in general, by no means diſinclined to humane and charitable actions. Their condition would be benefited, could the price of fuel be rendered cheaper. Perhaps there are no means of doing this, but by making the communication eaſier to the coal which is the fuel they muſt now chiefly truſt to. In conſequence of the act of Parliament, lately obtained for erecting tolls upon the roads within the county of Perth, it is propoſed to make a toll-road to Blairingone. If this propoſal ſhould be carried into execution, it will no doubt render the communication eaſier; and it is to be hoped, alſo make the neceſſary article of coal cheaper. Coal is brought from Blairingone and Dollar, about 12 miles diſtance, and is ſold here at 1¼d. a-ſtone, Tron weight; at the coal-hill 12 ſtone

ſtone coſts 4d. Were the two-handed ſpinning wheel more generally uſed, it would probably contribute in ſome meaſure to better the circumſtances of the lower claſs of people, as well as to increaſe the materials of the linen-manufacture. There are but one or two ſuch wheels in this pariſh; and it is but little uſed in many parts of the country. It might alſo be for the intereſts of the lower claſs of people, and eſpecially the women, were they more employed than they are, in manufactures for which they are qualified. The great demand for men for all kinds of work, has raiſed their wages to an exorbitant height; while in this part of the country, at leaſt, the wages of female-ſervants are barely ſufficient to ſupport them, when in health: They cannot afford to ſet apart any proviſion for ſickneſs or old age, without the utmoſt parſimony.

The roads in the pariſh and neighbourhood, are but in an indifferent ſtate. They are kept in repair by means of the ſtatute-ſervices, which of late have been commuted for money at the rate of 8 s. the plough-gate. But though the roads, ſince that time, are better than formerly, they are far from being good; and this fund will probably be inſufficient to make them ſo. The ſize of farms in the pariſh are ſmall, and their number has of late neither increaſed nor decreaſed. A conſiderable part of the pariſh is incloſed, and the people ſeem to be ſufficiently convinced of the advantages of incloſures. Property in land does not change often. Two ſmall eſtates were ſold lately at upwards of 30 years purchaſe.

In the years 1782 and 1783, the price of meal was not ſo high as in many other diſtricts; and meal was always to be had. The bounty of Government was of ſervice, though it was late in arriving; and the kirk-ſeſſion, by laying out a part of their funds in purchaſing meal, furniſhed the pooreſt

pooreſt claſs of people with it at a lower rate than the market-price.

The alteration in the dreſs and manner of living of the inhabitants, within theſe 30 or 40 years, is not a little remarkable. Every body is now decently and comfortably clothed, which perhaps was not the caſe then; and there is now four times the quantity of butcher-meat uſed. About 25 or 30 years ago, there was but two ſixpenny wheaten loaves brought from Perth, to two private families, in the week: There is now a baker in the village, who ſells bread to the amount of L. 200 a-year, and about L. 80 worth is brought every year from Perth. It muſt, however, be obſerved that the pariſhes of Blackford and Trinity-Gaſk are in part ſupplied from Auchterarder. A houſe in the village of Auchterarder, conſiſting of 4 apartments, with a garden, lets for about L. 4; and ſeparate rooms, with a ſmall garden, let from 20 s. to 25 s. There are about 100 ploughs in the pariſh; many of them are four-horſe ploughs, and the reſt two-horſe ploughs. Sometimes, but rarely, 2 oxen are uſed, inſtead of 2 horſes, next the plough. In the low part of the pariſh the tenants are improving the breed of their horſes, and among them the two-horſe plough generally prevails. There are about 250 ſingle horſe carts, and not one double horſe cart. An opinion prevails, which is probably true, that the horſes are more equally wrought, in theſe rough and unequal roads, by each having his own cart.

NUM-

NUMBER V.

PARISH OF ABERLEMNO.

(County of Forfar.)

By the Rev. Mr Andrew Mitchel.

Name, Situation, &c.

ABERLEMNO is ſaid to derive its etymology from *aber* in the Gaelic language, ſignifying the "mouth of" or "above," and from the ſmall river of Lemno, which takes its riſe in this pariſh, and falls into the river South-Eſk, about a mile N. from the church. The names of moſt places are ſaid to be derived from the Gaelic language. This pariſh is ſituated 12 or 13 miles from the ſea-coaſt, in the county and preſbytery of Forfar, and Synod of Angus and Mearns. Its form ſomewhat reſembles an oblique triangle. The extent of it from E. to W. is about 6 miles; and from N. to S. about 5. It is bounded on the N. by the pariſhes of Carrarton and Tannadice; on the N. W. by the pariſh of Oathlaw; on the W. and S. by the pariſh of Reſcobie; on the S. E. by Guthrie, and on the E. by Brechin. The ſoil, in general, is fertile, the low grounds deep, the high grounds ſhallow and rocky. The appearance of the country, in this pariſh, is various; in ſome places flat, in others hilly; the hills are covered with heath. A large tract of ground upon the banks

banks of the river South-Eſk, is ſometimes ſubject to inundations; the moſt remarkable of which happened in harveſt 1774.

Population.—The population of this pariſh is ſuppoſed not to be materially different from what it was formerly. The return to Dr Webſter was 943. The preſent amount of the population is 1033.

Males,	514	Between 20 and 50,	431
Females,	519	——50 and 70,	123
Aged below 10,	245	——70 and 100,	17
Between 10 and 20,	217		

The annual average of births,	28
—— deaths,	20
—— marriages,	12
Average of children from each marriage, from	5 to 7
Heritors, (four reſide in the pariſh.)	10
Great farmers, about	30
Inhabited houſes, about	170
Poor receiving alms,	16
Expence of their yearly ſupply, at an average,	L. 25
Epiſcopalian families,	2
Weavers employed in the manufacture of brown linen or Oſnaburg,	74

Smiths,	5	Merchants,	4
Carpenters,	7	Gardeners,	3
Tailors,	11	Flax-dreſſers,	4
Shoemakers,	10	Male labouring ſervants,	47
Millers,	6	Female ditto,	33
Maſons,	2		

Church, Stipend and School.—The church was repaired in 1774, and the manſe built in 1782. The ſtipend, including the glebe, is between L. 86 and L. 96 Sterling.

The

The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is 200 merks; the number of ſcholars generally about 40. Engliſh and writing are taught for 1s. 6d. the quarter; arithmetic and Latin, for 2s. 6d. The emoluments of ſeſſion-clerkſhip may be about L. 4 or L. 5 Sterling, yearly.

Price of Labour and Proviſions.—The wages of a day-labourer in huſbandry are 1s. without victuals, and 8d. with them. A male labouring ſervant's wages are from L. 5 to L. 8 a-year; a female's, L. 3; a good labouring married ſervant receives as wages about L. 6 Sterling in money, a houſe and yard, the value of which is between 20s. and 30s.; he gets a cow maintained through the year, and his fuel brought home: All which generally enable him to bring up a family. A carpenter's wages are 10d. or 1s. and his victuals; a maſon's 1s. 4d. or 1s. 6d. without victuals; a tailor's 8d. with victuals.—The price of proviſions is doubled ſince 1745: Butcher-meat is 4d. the lb.; ducks and hens, 8d. each; butter 8d. the lb.; cheeſe 6s. or 7s. the ſtone.

Farms, &c.—The farms, in general, are from 50 to 250 or 300 acres; few are more extenſive, and ſome are ſmaller. Their number is not diminiſhing. By a late regulation, the half of each farm ſhould be in graſs. Oats and peaſe are ſown in March and April; barley in April and the beginning of May; and wheat generally in September and October. The greateſt part of the land is incloſed; the people being convinced of the advantage of incloſing. The loch of Balgavies has, for many years, furniſhed much marl for manure. The rent of the beſt arable land may be about L. 1 the acre; but what the farmers chiefly ſtudy is the bringing up of black cattle. The land-

rent of the pariſh is fully L. 2000 Sterling. The number of ploughs is 48, each of which is generally drawn by four horſes; the number of horſes 161; of carts 90. There has been little ſale of land from time immemorial.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The air, in moſt places is healthy. There is plenty of moorſtone, free-ſtone and ſlates; many of which laſt, are ſent to London and other places. Coal, peat, turf, broom and furze, are uſed for fuel. Coal from Fife coſts 6 d. the boll, *i. e.* 7 ſtone weight. Peat is got from a neighbouring pariſh, at about 2 s. the cart-load. There are 2 chaiſes in the pariſh. Two obeliſks remain, one in the church-yard, another on the highway from Brechin to Forfar, about 8 or 9 feet high; they were erected in memory of the total defeat of the Danes, and have ſome rude hieroglyphical ſculptures *. A few tumuli have been opened in this neighbourhood, in one or two of which was found a rude kind of ſtone coffin, containing a ſmall quantity of black earth, with ſome bones almoſt entirely conſumed. In 1777, there was a cut made the whole breadth of this pariſh, from the church ſouthward; and a bridge built by private ſubſcription, to connect the road from Forfar to Brechin with that to Arbroath. The ſtatute-labour has been, for the moſt part, commuted. The principal manufacture is linen. Few inliſt in the army. The people are induſtrious, œconomical, and, in general, humane in their diſpoſition. There is a great alteration for the better, in the manners, dreſs and ſtyle of living within theſe 40 years. The pariſh always ſupplies itſelf with proviſions and

* See Pennant's Tour; Gordon's Itinerary; Buchanan's Hiſt. lib. 6.

and ſometimes exports large quantities of grain. There are two inns on the great road between Brechin and Forfar, for the entertainment of travellers. Few ſervices are performed by tenants or ſubtenants, excepting the carriage of the landlord's coals.

NUMBER

NUMBER VI.

PARISH OF DRUMBLADE.

(County of Aberdeen.)

By the Rev. Mr George Abel.

Name, Situation, &c.

THE ancient name of this pariſh was *Drumblait*, the modern is *Drumblade*, which ſignifies in Gaelic, "hills covered with corn," of which there are ſeveral in the pariſh. Drumblade lies in the county and Synod of Aberdeen and the Preſbytery of Turriff. Its form ſomewhat reſembles the body of a fiddle; the length from N. to S. is from 5 to 6, the breadth from E. to W. from 4 to 5, and the circumference about 18 miles. It is bounded by the pariſhes of Forgue, Inch, Gartly and Huntly; by the two laſt of which, it is interſected in ſome places. The ſurface is compoſed of ſmall hills and vallies, ſome of the former are covered with fir, but moſt are arable. The vallies produce excellent crops where properly cultivated. The ſoil of the laſt is a deep loam, and that of the higher ground is thin, but fertile; the air tolerably ſalubrious, and the people generally healthy.

Animals.—The quadrupeds are horſes, black cattle, ſheep, hogs, foxes, hares, polecats and badgers. Birds are grouſe, partridges, plovers, a few wood-cocks, &c. The cattle are not of an uncommon ſize, though they are very hardy and ſerviceable. Some cows bred here have ſold at L. 8,

and

and oxen at L. 16; but the common prices are greatly below theſe ſums, ordinary cows ſelling from L. 4 to L. 5, and oxen from L. 6 to L. 10.

Minerals.—There is plenty of coarſe lime-ſtone, of free-ſtone, (called here paiſy-whin,) of moorſtone, and indications of ſlate; there being inexhauſtible quarries of that article in the neighbourhood. Some few chalybeate ſprings are to be met with, but weak and little uſed.

Population.—According to the returns made from hence to Dr Webſter, the number of inhabitants in this pariſh about 1750, was 1125; this has ſince diminiſhed, as in 1790 there were only 886 individuals, of whom 427 were males, and 459 were females. Of the total number, 812 belonged to the Eſtabliſhed Church; 40 were Seceders; 30 of the Epiſcopal perſuaſion, and 4 Papiſts. The annual average of births is $23\frac{3}{10}$; of deaths $20\frac{1}{10}$; and of marriages $4\frac{4}{10}$. The population in 1782, was 876; in 1783, 892; in 1784, 887; in 1786, 914; in 1787, 903; in 1788, 874. The cauſes of theſe alterations are young men, ſuch as maſons, ſhoemakers, wrights, ſlaters, &c. going abroad to improve themſelves in their reſpective crafts; and to the enliſting of ſome in the army, particularly in the artillery. There are 200 inhabited houſes; the property of which is divided among four heritors, only one of whom reſides.

Productions, &c.—The pariſh produces all the ordinary kinds of vegetables in the fields and gardens; ſupplies itſelf with proviſions, and exports meal, bear, and oats. Sowing and reaping depend much upon the ſeaſons. Peaſe and oats are ſown (if the ground be dry and fit for the ſeed) from the 1ſt of March to the middle of April; barley and common

common bear from the laſt period till Whitſunday. Barley, bear, and Peebles, or early oats, are reaped from the end of Auguſt to the middle of September, common oats to the end of October; and ſometimes in very late ſeaſons, and backward weather, the harveſt continues till the beginning, nay middle of December, as in 1782. There may be about 400 acres in plantations. Each farm has a proportion of paſture-ground ſet apart for the cattle and ſheep; and it muſt be acknowledged there is too much waſte ground. There are ſome incloſures in the pariſh; but the greateſt part of it is unincloſed, as the people, though ſenſible of the benefits of incloſing, cannot afford the outlay of money neceſſary for that purpoſe.

Rent, Wages, &c.—Beſt arable or meadow ground lets in general at 14 s. or 15 s. the acre; inferior, from 5 s. to 10 s. The rent of the whole pariſh is above L. 1622. Landed property is not often changing. The daily wages of a labourer in huſbandry are 9 d.; in harveſt from 1 s. to 1 s. 3 d.; of a carpenter 1 s.; of a maſon 1 s. 3 d.; of a ſlater 1 s. 2 d.; of a tailor 10 d. When men and women are employed for the whole year in huſbandry, the wages of the former are from L. 4 to L. 6, and of the latter, from L. 2 to L. 2, 10 s. excluſive of victuals and lodging, with which they are alſo ſupplied by their maſters. None have been obliged to leave the pariſh for want of employment. The fuel commonly uſed is peat, turf, heath, broom, whins, (all found in the pariſh), and Engliſh coal, landed at Banff or Portſoy. There is a very fine clay, of a yelloviſh brown colour, (called here clay-marl), to be got in great quantities, in which very little ſand appears. It is only uſed as a compoſt for manure, or is laid upon graſs-ground with little propriety or judgment.

Church,

Church, Stipend, Poor, &c.—The church was rebuilt in 1773. The former church had been built in the year 1110, as appears from raiſed figures upon one of the keep-ſtones of the eaſt end; and the appearance of the work ſeemed to confirm its antiquity. The value of the living, including the glebe, is L. 67 : 15 : 8. The Earl of Kintore is patron. The number of poor receiving ſupport from the funds, on an average of 5 years, is 12. The laſt year's amount of the contributions, and the produce of alms, legacies, and all the other funds deſtined to their uſe, was L. 24 : 10 : 5.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The general ſize of the people is from 5 feet 5 inches, to 5 feet 10 inches. They are not remarkably indolent; but with regard to induſtry, there is room for improvement. They are œconomical, live ſoberly, and rather poorly, but ſeem tolerably contented with their condition; are humane, and diſcover their humanity on every occaſion. The having a little more the command of money at firſt ſetting out in the world, might greatly meliorate their condition. The roads in this pariſh are not in good repair, on account of the clay ſoil, the want of gravel, the great length of highway, and the ſmall number of people to look after it. The ſtatute-labour is, however, exacted, and but in very few inſtances commuted. There are no turnpikes; the general opinion ſeeming to be againſt them.

Antiquities.—There are three *tumuli* in this pariſh; the largeſt, Meet-hillock, is near Slioch, where King Robert Bruce encamped, when he came N. in purſuit of ſome of the adherents of Cummine Earl of Badenoch, after defeating that nobleman at Inverurie. A ſmall hill above that tumulus is called to this day Robin's Height, and had on the top

top large ſtones, with inſcriptions on them, now all broken down and carried away; at leaſt none are at preſent to be ſeen above the ground. Tradition reports, that theſe three tumuli were raiſed by Bruce's army, as poſts of communication for his ſoldiers; and the orders were given by the King at Meet-hillock. None of them have been opened.

Famine in 1782.—The crop in 1782 almoſt totally failed; of courſe the year 1783 would have proved calamitous in the higheſt degree, had there not been a very large ſupply of peaſe procured from Norfolk, which was ſold out twice a-week, at prime coſt, in the ſmalleſt quantities called for. There was alſo barley brought from Aberdeen, and retailed in meal by private adventurers. During this period none died of want; the people were more healthy than uſual; and the women in general exerted themſelves ſo much in ſpinning, and ſitting up at their work every other night, as to produce double the uſual quantity of linen yarn, thus contributing more to the ſupport of their families than the men.

NUM-

NUMBER VII.

PARISH OF SKENE.

(County of Aberdeen.)

By the Rev. Mr James Hogg.

Name, Situation, Soil, &c.

According to tradition one of the progenitors of the preſent laird of Skene is ſaid to have killed a boar that endangered the King's life, Malcolm Kenmore, with a knife or dagger, called in Gaelic, a *Skian*, and received as reward the greater part of the lands in the pariſh. Hence the name of the family of Skene, and that of the pariſh. The pariſh is ſituated in the county of Aberdeen, and lies from 6 to 12 meaſured miles N. W. from the town. It is in the Synod and Preſbytery of Aberdeen. Its extent in circumference is nearly from 20 to 24 meaſured miles. The form is nearly oval; the length is 6, and the breadth from 3 to 4 meaſured miles. It is bounded on the E. by the pariſhes of Newhills and Peterculter; on the S. by Peterculter; on the W. by Echt and Cluny; on the N. W. by Kemnay; and on the N. by Kintore and Kinellar. The appearance of the country is hilly and rocky. The nature of the ſoil is various; the predominant quality is that of gravel. Some ſpots are fertile enough, others very barren. The air is ſufficiently dry and healthy. The moſt prevalent diſtempers are fevers. The pariſh abounds with mineral ſprings. Theſe might be rendered ſerviceable in ſcorbutic

and ſcrophulous diſeaſes; but they are rarely applied to for relief. The tendency which the lands have in general to minerals, operates to their diſadvantage; being inimical to vegetation, and quickly conſuming manure of every kind. There is a lake of conſiderable extent, the lake of Skene, about a meaſured mile in length, and ſomething more than 3-4ths in breadth. It is viſited, eſpecially in winter, by duck, geeſe, and occaſionally by ſwans; pike and eel in great abundance, and of conſiderable ſize are found in it. The pike is good, I believe, at all ſeaſons, it can be caught. The eel is in greateſt perfection towards the end of September, and beginning of October, when it quits its ſummer-quarters, and proceeds down the burn which flows from the loch. A canal from the lake to Aberdeen, fit for navigating boats of an ordinary ſize, has been projected. The ſcheme is certainly practicable, and would, if carried into execution, be of conſiderable advantage to this pariſh, and the country around it. A cut of about 16 meaſured miles in length, through a country ſufficiently flat for the purpoſe, is all that would be required, without, I ſhould think, the aid of almoſt a ſingle lock. But the country muſt be farther advanced in cultivation, before ſuch a ſcheme, I ſuſpect, can or will be attempted. The hills are in general green and rocky. Moorſtone and granite are to be found in abundance, and are uſed in building.

Population.—The population does not appear to be materially different from what it was 10 or 20 years ago. That it is on the increaſe, manifeſtly appears from the regiſters of marriages and baptiſms, which have been accurately enough kept. The population, according to Dr Webſter, was 1251. About the 1777, it was 1306. In 1787, it was 1256. The amount at preſent, is 1233, of which 572 are males, and 661 females. There are no towns nor villages

villages in the parish. The annual average of births from 1740 to 1750, was 39; from 1760 to 1770, 30; from 1780 to 1790, 19. The annual average of deaths from 1760 to 1770, 30; from 1780 to 1790, 25. The annual average of marriages from 1760 to 1770, 15; from 1780 to 1790, 9. The rule for ascertaining the population of any parish or district, (*viz.* by multiplying the number of births by 26, and the number of deaths by 36), does not appear to be at all accurate; nor has it nearly answered in any instance that I have heard of, where it has been tried. The number of souls under 10 years of age, amounts to 235; from 10 to 20, is 274; from 20 to 50, is 460; from 50 to 70, is 158; above 70, and below 100, is 106. There were formerly 51 farms, or rather ploughs, in the parish. The number is now diminished. A farmer's family, at an average, may consist of from 6 to 9 persons. There are 2 or 3 merchants, and 14 or 15 tradesmen. A very considerable proportion of the present inhabitants of the parish are natives of other parishes. The whole parish is of the Established Church, except 1 Seceder, and 9 Roman Catholics. The proportion of the annual births to the whole population is nearly as 1 to 65; of the annual maariages to the whole population as 1 to 137; of the annual deaths to the whole population nearly as 1 to 49. At an average, each marriage may be said to produce from 4 to 6 children.

Productions Agriculture, &c.—On the lands belonging to Skene only have trees been hitherto raised. No plantations have till of late been made, and even that to no great extent, nor improvements indeed of any kind, owing to invincible obstructions. Considering the great quantity of waste land in the parish, fit only for bearing trees, the neglect of cultivating them is much to be regretted. Trees of all kinds

tend greatly to beautify a country, and prove ultimately highly uſeful and profitable. Aſh, plane, pine, common fir, willow, larix, are the kinds of trees which are principally produced. The larix is only of late introduced; and it ſeems to thrive better, and advance faſter than any other tree. It is attended with this ſingular advantage too, that it thrives almoſt in any ſoil, and in any ſituation. Horſes, black cattle, and ſheep, are the animals which the pariſh produces. The number of cattle amounts to 1185; of ſheep to 1205; of horſes, to 199. The number of acres may poſſibly be, at an average, above 8000: Of theſe, about 2300 are called infield; about 3056 outfield; about 1640 paſture-ground; 534 moſs, and about 520 moor-ground. The greater part of the arable ground is employed in raiſing oats and bear. A middling farm will ſow about 36 or 40 bolls of oats, and from 4 to 6 bolls of bear. Wheat, rye, hemp, flax, are not cultivated in this corner. About 64 acres only are employed in raiſing turnip and potatoes. The artificial graſſes occupy about 490 acres. The pariſh for the moſt part ſupplies itſelf with articles of proviſion, and rarely imports or exports. Oats in general are ſown towards the middle and end of April, and reaped in October. Bear is ſown about the beginning of May, and reaped in general in September. Turnip are ſown towards the end of June. About 135 or 140 acres are employed in raiſing foreſt-trees. The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 2500 : 16 : 8 Scots. — The neighbourhood of Aberden is advantageous to the pariſh, where it finds a ready market for every article of produce; and has but a moderate diſtance to carry lime, &c. in return, for manuring its fields. Among its diſadvantages, are to be numbered its difficulty of improvement, (being in general full

of

of both rocks and ſtones, and a conſiderable part of it wet and ſpongy), the ſmall progreſs which agriculture hath hitherto made, and I may add the quantity of moſs in the pariſh. The laſt aſſertion may appear paradoxical. It is nevertheleſs true: For till the lands belonging to the town of Aberdeen were feued, the greater number of the ſubtenants, and many even of the tenants upon theſe lands, employed a great part of their time in digging and driving peat to Aberdeen, to the almoſt total neglect of the cultivation of their fields, without deriving in return any proportionable compenſation.

Stipend, Church, Poor, &c. — The ſtipend, including the glebe, is from L. 70 to L. 80 Sterling. Mr Skene of Skene is patron. When the church was built nobody knows. It is very old, and has not been repaired for a long time paſt. The manſe was built in the year 1779. There are 4 heritors in the pariſh, two of whom only reſide, and one of theſe but occaſionally. The number of poor receiving alms is at preſent 24. The annual amount of the contributions for their relief is about L. 11, 10 s. Sterling. The produce of legacies is L. 6, 10 s. Sterling.

Wages, Fuel, &c.—The wages of a day-labourer, in huſbandry and other work, are from 8 d. to 1 s.; a carpenter's from 1 s. to 1 s. 2 d.; a maſon's about 1 s. 6 d.; a taylor's about 8 d. or 9 d.; a ſmith's about 1 s. 1 d. or 1 s. 2 d. The only fuel uſed in the pariſh is peat: The moſſes in this country, in general, are full of the roots of trees; an evident proof, that it has been formerly much more covered with wood than it is at preſent. The trees commonly found in our moſſes are oak, aller, elm, hazel

zel and common fir; the oak predominates. The uſual wages of male-ſervants are from L. 4 to L. 6 a-year, and of female-ſervants from L. 2 to L. 3 Sterling. The kind of plough, generally made uſe of, is the common Scotch plough. There are 140 carts; only 1 chaiſe.

Antiquities.—Beſides 2 Druidical temples, pretty entire, and a number of barrows or tumuli, there are, on a moor covered with barrows, about an Engliſh mile S. of the church, evident traces of an encampment; near which is a very large collection of ſtones or a cairn. About 3-4ths of a mile N. E. of the church, on the top of a hill, are the remains of a wall, which appear to have been formerly reſorted to as a place of ſtrength.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The ſpirit for induſtry ſeems at laſt to be rouſing. Improvements of every kind are progreſſive in their nature, and require time and encouragement to bring them to any degree of perfection. They are on their progreſs northward; and he who ſhall accelerate it, well deſerves to be accounted by his country a public benefactor. The ſtate of the roads is only tolerable; there are no turnpikes, and the opinion of the country ſeems, in general, to be againſt them. Several bridges, that were very much wanted, have been erected. Incloſing of land is going on faſt; the rent of infield land, in general, may, at an average, be 14s. or 16s. the acre; outfield about 2s. 6d. paſture 6d. The rent of a middling farm may be, at an average, from L. 25 to L. 30 Sterling. The number of farms in the pariſh is diminiſhing. The improvements carrying on by one heritor, and the feuing, of late, of the lands belonging to the town of Aberdeen,

Aberdeen, may be aſſigned as the cauſe; by which laſt, 31 ploughs have been reduced to 14; but the rents have conſiderably encreaſed, and a ſpirit of improvement has been excited. The ſituation of the pariſh in 1782 and 1783 was, as I have been informed, very wretched; and had not the peace, at that critical period, taken place, a famine, it is believed, muſt, in this country in general, have inevitably enſued. The peaſe, which had been bought up for the uſe of the fleet, were imported in great quantities into Scotland; and this ſupply, along with the laudable exertions of communities and individuals, proved, under Providence, the means of ſaving the country.

NUM-

NUMBER VIII.

PARISH OF ABERLOUR.

(County of Banff.)

By the Rev. Mr James Thomson.

Name, Situation, Extent, Surface and Soil.

THE ancient name of this pariſh was *Skirduſtan*, ſo called from its tutelary ſaint, Duſtan. Its modern name is *Aberlour*, derived from its local ſituation; being ſituated at the mouth of a noiſy burn, where it diſcharges itſelf into the Spey. It lies in the weſtern part of the county of Banff, about 20 computed miles W. of the county-town, 10 S. of Elgin, and 12 S. E. of Forres. It gives name to the preſbytery to which it belongs, being the preſbytery-ſeat; and pertains to the Synod of Murray. The figure of the pariſh reſembles a wedge, being broader at the weſt end, and growing gradually narrower towards the E. Its length from E. to W. is about 6 Scotch miles; its breadth from S. to N. at the weſt end, about 5 Scotch miles; about the middle, between 2 and 3, but at the eaſt end it will not exceed an Engliſh mile. It is bounded on the S. and S. E. by the pariſh of Mortlack, from which it is ſeparated by a ſmall rivulet and a range of hills called the Convals; it is bounded on the E. by the pariſh of Boharm, from which it is divided by a ſmall

ſmall river called Fiddich; on the N. by the pariſh of Rothes, from which it is ſeparated by the river Spey; on the N W. by the pariſh of Knockandow, from which it is alſo ſeparated by the river Spey; and on the W. and S W. by the pariſh of Inveraven, from which it is divided by a hill called the Drum of Carron, the ſmall water of Tarvey, and the hill of Allachoynachan, upon which the battle between the Earls of Argyle and Huntly, commonly called the battle of Glenlivat, was fought. The appearance of the pariſh is various; that part of it which lies N W. N. and E. and runs along Spey and Fiddich, is flat; that which lies towards the S E. and S W. is hilly. In the middle of the pariſh ſtands the high mountain of Belrinnes, from the top of which you can, in a clear day, ſee as far S. as the Grampian hills, and as far N. and E. as the mountains of Roſs, Sutherland and Caithneſs. The ſoil towards the river is light, and when you dig to any depth, a ſtratum of ſand. That which is towards the hills is deep, and a clay bottom. But both the one and the other are abundantly fruitful when properly clutivated.

Rivers, &c.—Beſides the Spey and Fiddich, there are a good number of ſmall rivulets or burns, which abound with trout and eel, as do Spey and Fiddich; in the former of which conſiderable numbers of ſalmon uſed to be caught; and for a liberty of catching them with rods, dikes or cairns, the tenants, along the river-ſide, paid to their reſpective heritors a certain yearly rent, which was called water-rent. But, of late years, the quantity of ſalmon caught within the bounds of this pariſh is greatly diminiſhed, in conſequence of a proceſs between the Duke of Gordon and the upper heritors, wherein it was found, that the Duke had a title to raiſe cruives acroſs the river,

under certain regulations, and with what they call the Sunday's ſleep; the few that are ſtill caught are ſold within the pariſh, in the beginning of the ſeaſon, at 4d. the lb. and not below 2d. at any ſeaſon. Within theſe 24 years paſt, there have been more frequent overflowings of the Spey, than are remembered before that, by the oldeſt man alive, and whereby the adjacent fields have been much damaged. In September 1768, eſpecially, the river roſe about 18 feet perpendicular above the channel, overflowed the fields, carried along with its ſtream the cut corn, and large trees torn up by the roots, buried the corn which was not cut under a bed of ſand above 30 inches deep, and left the ſalmon dead on the fields, at the diſtance of above 100 yards from the bed of the river. There have been ſundry extraordinary ſwellings of the river ſince that time, but never to ſuch a prodigious pitch, although the rains have been greater, and of longer duration, in the low country; from which it has been concluded, that the inundation in 1768 was occaſioned by water-ſpouts on the hills.

Produce.—Though the pariſh is rather calculated for grain than for paſture, it rears ſufficient black cattle, ſheep and hogs; not only ſupplying itſelf, but ſending to market. Some of the beſt farmers alſo bring up horſes fit for ſaddle and draught; and although the diſtrict cannot be ſaid to be famous for breeding horſes, black cattle or ſheep of ſuperior qualities, yet there are, of each kind, ſome raiſed, which are eſteemed very handſome, and well ſhaped, for which the owners draw for horſes from L. 15 to L. 20 Sterling; for cows from L. 5 to L. 9 Sterling, for ɯəxo from L. 8 to L. 12, and for ſheep ten guineas the ſcore. And as the pariſh has theſe uſeful animals, it wants not thoſe that are noxious; ſuch as, foxes, badgers, otters,

otters, &c. It is alſo ſtored with fowls and birds. Being a highland country, abounding with woods, and almoſt ſurrounded with hills, there are muirfowls, patridges, plovers, ſnipes, lapwings, cormorants, hawks, magpies, and woodcocks at their ſeaſon; ſometimes eagles are ſeen upon Belrinnes, and ſome of their feathers are found there; the night owl alſo ſhows itſelf. The migratory birds are the cuckoo, which appears in the beginning of April, and diſappears in Auguſt; the lapwing, about the month of March, and is ſeldom ſeen after the end of July; the ſwallow about the firſt of June, and diſappears in the end of July; the woodcock about October, and is ſcarce ſeen after April.—The pariſh produces grain of all ſorts, with any due culture; and not only ſupplies itſelf, but ſells oats, meal and barley, ſometimes to the highlands, and ſometimes for exportation. It has alſo abundance of barren timber, eſpecially oak, allar and birch, which grow naturally in large woods, and ſome plantations of firs are lately planted. There are alſo fruit-trees, ſuch as apple, pear, cherry trees, &c. in ſome gardens. Turnip and potatoes begin now to be raiſed on every farm, though, being but lately introduced, in ſmall quantities. The practice of planting cabbage in the fields has not got in here; nor is it likely that it will be introduced ſoon, as almoſt all the fields are without any fence; and winter herding is not practiſed. There is alſo ſome flax raiſed, but no hemp; and no great quantities of ſown graſs.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's ſtate of the population, the number of inhabitants was 1010. There are, at preſent, about 920 ſouls; about 450 males, and 470 females. The births and deaths bear not the ordinary proportion to the population. By ſumming up the baptiſms and

and burials for 20 years, it appears, that the baptiſms are, at an average, 25, deaths 13, and marriages 8. Though there are ſcarce any remarkable for longevity, yet the people are generally healthy, and, a few excepted, who are carried off by ſmall pox and conſumptions, arrive at the age of 70, 80, and not a few at 84. The whole are of the Eſtabliſhed Church, except about 10 or 11, who are Roman Catholics. The inhabitants, except a very few ſervants and cottagers who come from Strathſpey and Badenoch, are natives, deſcended from anceſtors who have lived in the pariſh for many generations; and as there are very few who come from other places, ſo there are as few who leave the pariſh: For ſince the year 1782, when there were whole families emigrating from the neighbouring pariſhes to North America, none, except a few aſpiring young men, who have had a more liberal education than their neighbours, have left this pariſh, and gone, ſome to London, ſome to the Weſt India Iſlands. There is but one reſiding heritor.

Church, Stipend, Poor, &c.—The church ſeems to be very old, and was repaired in 1786. The ſtipend till the year 1772 was only L. 50; but at that period the Earl of Fife, as patron, without any application from the incumbent, or any in his name, with a generoſity worthy of his Lordſhip, propoſed an augmentation of the ſtipend, and deſired the incumbent to name what augmentation he thought the miniſter of Aberlour ought to have; who, with the advice of the preſbytery, propoſed L. 8 : 6 : 8 Sterling, of money, with 18 bolls of oat-meal, at 8 ſtone the boll, which his Lordſhip agreed to, and obtained a decreet, without any expence to the incumbent: So that, at preſent, the ſtipend is L. 58 : 6 : 8 of money, and 18 bolls

of

of meal, with about a little more than 5 acres of arable ground for a glebe, little more than an acre of graſs, a manſe, garden and offices. The funds for the poor are not great, though the number on the poor's roll is conſiderable, there being juſt now about 30. There is a mortification of 3½ bolls of meal, at 9 ſtone the boll, payable yearly off a ſmall farm. One hundred merks, beſides, were mortified by a farmer of the name of M'Erron; another hundred merks by one of the name of Green; both which ſums, with any ſavings made in years of plenty, are lent out upon intereſt, and amount now to about L. 80 Sterling of capital. The annualrent of this, with the above mentioned mortified meal, the weekly collections, amounting to about 2 s. Sterling, at an average, each Sabbath, with the produce of the mort-cloth, and any fines for immoralities, are all the funds for aſſiſting this numerous roll. Indeed, in 1782, it was neceſſary, by reaſon of the ſcarcity, to diminiſh the capital; but ſince that time it has been raiſed to what it is at preſent.

Price of Proviſions and Labour.—The prices of victuals and clothing are greatly raiſed within theſe 20 years paſt. Meal, which before that period, would have been bought at 8 s. 4 d. the boll, now ſells at 11 s. or 12 s.; beef, which formerly ſold at 1½ d. a-pound, now gives 3 d. or 4 d.; eggs, which were bought at 1 d. for 14, coſt now 1½ d. for 12; and fiſh, which would have been bought at 5 d. the dozen, now coſt 1 s.; ſo in proportion with reſpect to every ſort of proviſions. The ſame proportion holds with reſpect to clothes and ſhoes; yet the people ſeem ſatisfied with their condition, live very comfortably, being generally very induſtrious, and receive a proportional high price for any commodity they bring to market; and the labouring

labouring people and ſervants have nearly double the wages of what they had about 20 years ago. A day-labourer gets his victuals and 6 d. a-day, at any ſeaſon; in harveſt, 10 d. and 1 s. A man-ſervant, who can only drive a cart-horſe, is allowed L. 4 yearly; and he who can plow and ſow, gets L. 5 or L. 6. A woman-ſervant gets L. 2 a-year.

NUMBER IX.

PARISH OF ROSENEATH.

(County of Dunbarton.)

By the Rev Mr George Drummond.

Name, Situation, Soil, &c.

THE ancient name of the pariſh was *Roſſnachoich*, which is a Gaelic word ſignifying the "Virgin's "Promontory." The pariſh is ſituated in the moſt weſterly part of Dunbarton-ſhire, in the Synod of Glaſgow and Air. It is a peninſula, nearly in the form of a parallelogram, being about 7 miles long and 2 broad, and is bounded on the land-ſide towards the N. by the pariſh of Row, on the W. by Lochlong, on the S. by the frith of Clyde, and on the E. by Gairloch. It is a continued ridge of riſing ground, without any high hill or mountain, although ſome parts of it are rocky. The higher grounds are covered with heath; but the lands near the ſhore are green. The ſoil is various, part of it being fertile, and part barren; part of it deep, and part ſhallow. The air is naturally dry, but is frequently moiſtened with ſhowers. It is in general healthy. There are ſeveral ſmall rivulets; but, from the ſituation of the pariſh, no large rivers. We have a lake of about a mile in circumference, that abounds with perch.

Coaſt,

Coast, Fisheries, &c.—The extent of coast is about 13 miles. The shore is in some places flat and sandy, but in general rocky and low. The fish commonly caught are herring, cod, mackerel, skate, flounders and salmon. Salmon are sold from 1 d. to 3 d. a-pound. The other fish are sold by guess or number, according to their size. The salmon and herrings are caught with nets; the other fish with lines. Greenock and Glasgow are the markets in which the fish caught here are generally sold. There is a strong current in the Gairloch, between the parishes of Roseneath and Row, opposite to the church of Row, where there is a ferry. There are two bays on the coast, one called Callwattie, and the other Campsoil; in which last there is good anchorage, and safe harbour for ships of any burden. In the Duke of Argyle's park there is a remarkable rock, which, though now at a considerable distance from the shore, bears evident marks of having been washed by the sea. Its greatest perpendicular height is 34 feet. It is called Wallace's Loup, *i. e.* Leap, from a tradition, that the renowned Wallace, being closely pursued by a party of his enemies, jumped down this rock on horseback, and escaped unhurt; but his horse was killed by the fall, and was buried at the foot of the rock, where his grave is shewn.

Produce, Rent, &c.—The average produce of an acre is not easily estimated, both from the farmers being backward in disclosing their affairs, and from a want of knowing the number of acres in the parish. The parish could sufficiently supply its inhabitants with provisions, if they were not obliged to sell the produce for ready money, in order to pay their rents: When this is the case, they are under the necessity of buying provisions again for their own support; the purchase-money for which arises from the profits of the herring-fishery. The land-rent of the parish is about

L. 1000

L. 1000 Sterling. The annual rent of a cottage and yard is from 10 s. to 20 s. One ſalmon-fiſhery, with a piece of ground, lets for L. 30 a-year. The Duke of Argyle has diſcovered a ſlate-quarry in this pariſh, which at preſent promiſes pretty well. Several thouſand ſlates are already dug out, formed, and ſhaped for uſe.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter, the number of the people was 521. At preſent, there are

Under 10 years,	54	Smiths, - -	3
Between 10 & 20,	82	Shoemakers, -	4
—— 20 & 50,	140	Tailors, - -	5
—— 50 & 70,	102	Carpenters and appren-	
Above 70 -	16	tices, -	6
	——	Seamen, -	6
Total,	394	Herring-fiſhermen,	96
		Salmon-fiſhermen,	2
Males above 10 years,	180	Ferrymen, -	2
Females ditto,	160	Houſehold ſervants,	22
Farmers, -	48	Seceders, -	5
Weavers, - -	7	Cameronians, -	14
Maſon, -	1		

TABLE of Marriages, Births and Deaths, from January 1780, to ditto 1790.

Years.	*Marriages.*	*Births.*	*Deaths.*
1780,	5	16	3
1781,	6	13	4
1782,	5	16	9
1783,	4	14	5
1784,	4	19	4
1785,	5	18	6
1786,	7	12	1
1787,	5	14	4
1788,	6	17	10
1789,	8	14	5
Average,	5½	15	5

There are 98 houſes in the pariſh, all which are detached, there being no towns nor villages. The proportion of bachelors to married men and widowers, is as 2 to 3. Each marriage produces, at an average, nearly 3 children. The decreaſe in the population, from what it was 40 years ago, is not to be aſcribed to the attraction of neighbouring manufactures, but is owing partly to one proprietor having taken into his own poſſeſſion ſome farms upon which ſeveral families formerly lived, and partly to ſome other farms being let to fewer tenants; yet, even at preſent, we are ſtocked with inhabitants.

Church, School, Poor, &c.—The church was rebuilt in 1780; the manſe in 1770. The ſtipend is moſtly paid in victual; and, at an average, including the glebe, may be eſtimated at L. 110 Sterling. The Duke of Argyle is patron.

tron. The number of heritors is 3; 2 of them reſide conſtantly in the pariſh; and ſometimes the Duke of Argyle, who is the chief proprietor. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is L. 8, 9 s. Sterling; average of fees and perquiſites, L. 8, 7 s.; number of ſcholars in winter, 38; at other times fewer. The quarter-fees for reading are 1 s.; for reading and writing, 1 s 6 d.; for reading, writing, and arithmetic, 2 s.; for Latin, 2 s. 6 d.; but which laſt has not been taught for ſeveral years. The number of poor is 13. The annual amount of contributions for their relief, including the intereſt of the parochial funds, is L. 18 Sterling.

Price of Proviſions and Labour, &c.—The preſent current prices of beef and veal, are from 5 d. to 7 d. the pound; formerly they were from 2½ d. to 4 d. the pound; mutton and lamb, at preſent, from 4 d. to 6 d. a-pound; formerly 2 d. to 3½ d. the pound. A hen, which now ſells at 1 s. ſold formerly at 4 d.; a chicken, now 4 d. and 5 d. ſold formerly for 2 d.; butter, at preſent from 9 d. to 1 s. the pound, formerly at 3½ d. and 4 d.; ſkimmed-milk cheeſe, at preſent 3 d. formerly 1½ d. the pound. Barley ſells now at 15 s. a-boll, Dunbarton-ſhire, 8 ſtone the boll, which is a peck and a half larger than Linlithgow meaſure, formerly it ſold at 9 s. or 10 s.; oats, at preſent 13 s. a-boll, formerly 8 s. A common labourer's wages a-day, without victuals, are from 10 d. to 1 s. and 1 s. 2 d.; a carpenter or wright, 2 s. a-day; a maſon, 2 s. a-day; a tailor, 8 d. a-day and his meat. Peats are the common fuel uſed here; ſome few families uſe coals, which are brought by water down theriver Clyde, from the neighbourhood of Glaſgow. The price of them at the ſhore here, including freight, &c. is 5 s. the cart. The cart ſhould be 1200 weight. Peats are ſold at 6 d. the creel. The average expence of a common

mon labourer and his wife may be eſtimated at L. 11 Sterling yearly: Many of them have actually brought up pretty large families upon the wages they receive, and that without running much in debt.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There are no ale-houſes, but plenty of whiſky-houſes, here, which are rather unfriendly to the morals of the people. Twelve new houſes have been built within theſe 10 years; for each of theſe, except 3, an old houſe has been pulled down. There are almoſt no cottagers employed in agriculture, unleſs by the Duke of Argyle. It is difficult to ſay whether it is better to employ them or hired ſervants. It is believed, that the cheapeſt and moſt expeditious method of carrying on work in this part of the country, is letting it by the piece, when it can be done ſo. For theſe 20 years and upwards, no perſon whatever, reſiding within this pariſh, has been impriſoned, except one poor man a ſhort time for a ſmall debt. Here rats cannot exiſt: Many of theſe have, at different times, been accidentally imported from veſſels lying upon the ſhore; but were never known to live 12 months in the place. From a prevailing opinion, that the ſoil of this pariſh is hoſtile to that animal, ſome years ago, a Weſt India planter actually carried out to Jamaica ſeveral caſks of Roſeneath earth, with a view to kill the rats that were deſtroying his ſugar-canes. It is ſaid this had not the deſired effect; ſo we loſt a very valuable export. Had the experiment ſucceeded, this would have been a new and profitable trade for the proprietors; but perhaps, by this time, the pariſh of Roſeneath might have been no more.

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NUMBER X.

PARISH OF DRAINY.

(COUNTY OF ELGIN.)

By the Rev. Mr LEWIS GORDON.

Situation, Extent, Name and Soil.

THE pariſh of Drainy is ſituated in the Synod of Moray, the county and preſbytery of Elgin, and about 6 meaſured miles from the royal borough of that name. It is a peninſula, ſtretching E. and W. along the coaſt, about 2 meaſured miles in its greateſt breadth, and 4 in its greateſt length; bounded on the N. by the Moray frith; on the S. by the lake of Spynie, which ſeparates it from the pariſh of Spynie; on the E. by the river of Loſſie, which divides it from the pariſhes of St Andrew's and Urquhart; and on the W. by the pariſh of Duffus. Drainy conſiſts of the 2 ancient pariſhes of Kinneddar and Ogſtown, which were united ſoon after the Reſtoration. It obtained its name from a new centrical church being built, in conſequence of this annexation, on the lands of Drainy, which probably were called ſo from draining the neighbouring ſwamps and marſhes. In general, this part of the country is low and flat. There are only two ſmall eminences that deſerve the name of hills. Scarcely one half of the ſurface is arable, the greateſt part conſiſting of barren moorground, covered with ſhort heath, or coarſe benty graſs. The land under cultivation is very fertile, part of it being

a rich loam or clay, and part a light, black, or ſandy ſoil.

Rent, Manufactures, &c.—The valued rent is L. 3044, 17s. 4d. Scotch; and the real rent may be eſtimated at about L. 1200 Sterling, though this muſt depend on the price of grain. There is only one reſiding heritor, who poſſeſſes two-thirds of the property; the remaining third belongs to the only other heritor. It is a great misfortune that no manufactures have been eſtabliſhed here, as ſcarcely any part of Scotland is better adapted for them. The women ſpin linen-yarn; by which, with the greateſt application, they can only earn from 2d. to 3d. a-day; and even this yarn, except what is neceſſary for our own conſumption, is exported (unwrought) to Edinburgh, Glaſgow, or the N. of England. The 2 hills, mentioned above, abound with excellent quarries of white and yellow free-ſtone, which is not to be found any where elſe in the Moray frith. About 20 maſons, including apprentices, and nearly double that number of labourers, are conſtantly employed in quarrying and dreſſing ſtones, to ſupply the demand for that article from this and the neighbouring counties.

Village of Loſſiemouth, Imports and Exports.---The principal village here is Loſſiemouth, a ſea-port belonging to the town of Elgin. It contains from 150 to 200 inhabitants. There are no veſſels belonging to the place, except 1 ſloop and 2 fiſhing-boats. But during the laſt year 49 veſſels, from 55 to 60 tons burden, at an average, entered this harbour. The imports and exports were as follow:

IMPORTS.—Engliſh coals,	-	20 veſſels.
Scotch coals,	-	6
London goods,	-	10
Carried forward,		36

IMPORTS.—	Brought forward,	36 veſſels.
	Leith goods, -	4
	Tanners bark, -	3
	Native ſalt, -	2
	Bottles, - -	1
	Slates, - -	1
	Iron, - -	1
	Lime, - -	1
	Total	49

EXPORTS—were 20 cargoes barley and oats, at an average, about 400 bolls each, and an inconſiderable quantity of peltry. The quantity of corn formerly exported from this county, was reckoned, at an average, 20,000 bolls yearly. But it is probable this exportation will, in future, be ſomewhat reduced, as the ſmuggling of foreign ſpirits is now, in a great meaſure, ſuppreſſed, and whiſky is ſubſtituted in their place. Twenty licenſed ſtills are at preſent employed in this county; and a conſiderable quantity of the ſpirits is manufactured, and conſumed in the highlands of Moray and Inverneſs-ſhire.

Fiſhing Towns.—There are other 2 creeks in the pariſh that admit boats, Cauſea and Stotfield; at the latter there are at preſent 3 fiſhing-boats, which, with the 2 at Loſſiemouth, are a vaſt benefit to the town of Elgin, and to the country at large, in ſupplying white fiſh. The rent derived from theſe fiſhing-boats is L. 5 Sterling each yearly: But the proprietors are obliged to furniſh a new boat every ſeventh year, which coſts, when rigged and complete, from L. 18 to L. 20 Sterling. The fiſh commonly taken on this coaſt, are cod, ſkate, hollibut, haddocks, whitings, ſaiths or cuddies, with plenty of crabs and lobſters; but none of them

in

in greater quantity than to anſwer the demand for home conſumption.

River and Lakes.—The river Loſſie has its ſource in the hills of Dallas; and, after a courſe of near 26 meaſured miles, diſcharges itſelf into the ſea at the town of Loſſie-mouth, in the N. E. corner of this pariſh. It is too ſmall to be navigable beyond its mouth, and its bed too ſandy to be favourable to ſalmon; yet about 3 or 4 ſcore of that fiſh have ſometimes been taken in a ſeaſon, at its entry into the ſea. It abounds with excellent red ſpotted trout, from 1 lb. to 3 lb. and even ſometimes 4 lb. in weight, called here phinnocks.—The loch of Spynie is a beautiful piece of freſh water, about 1 mile broad and 3 miles long, which diſcharges itſelf into the river Loſſie, about a mile from the ſea. It abounds with eel and pike, and water-fowl of various kinds; ſuch as, ſwans, geeſe, duck, teal, &c. This loch, at ſome former period, appears evidently to have formed a bay of the ſea, and to have been connected with another loch in the pariſh of Urquhart, called Cotts, which is only half a mile diſtant. The mouth of this bay is formed by 2 banks of hard gravel about 500 yards aſunder, and the water of Loſſie paſſing through this opening, ſeems, in a ſeries of ages, to have carried down ſuch a quantity of ſand, as to have at length ſeparated theſe lochs from each other, and ſhut up their communication with the ſea. The beds of ſhells all around the loch of Spynie, and the names of places in the neighbourhood, clearly prove that it has formerly been connected with the ſea; and there are alſo ſome written evidences of the ſame fact.

Church, Stipend, Poor, School, &c.—The church was built more than 100 years ago, and looks tolerably decent without, but is very naked and ill finiſhed within. Our churches

churches are, in general, exceedingly cold and dirty, and there is little hope of this evil being ſoon remedied. The patronage belongs to the family of Gordonſton. The ſtipend is 72 bolls of barley and oats, and L. 50 Sterling of money, with L. 2, 10 s. for communion-elements. The manſe and offices are new; the glebe and gardens contain about 5 Scotch acres. The old church of Ogſtown is now converted into a burying place for the family of Gordonſton, and was rebuilt ſome time ago with great taſte, in the ancient Gothic ſtyle. The veſtiges of the old church are to be ſeen in the church-yard at Kinneddar, and adjoining to theſe the remains of an old palace or caſtle belonging to the Biſhop of Moray, where he reſided before the caſtle of Spynie was built.—The parochial funds are very inconſiderable, the whole income not exceeding L. 20 Sterling; and this ſum, out of which the ſalary of the ſeſſion-clerk, beadle, and other parochial charges, muſt be paid, is all the proviſion for 40 or 50 poor.—At the pariſh-ſchool, about 30 or 40 children are inſtructed in Latin, Engliſh, writing and arithmetic. The ſalary of the ſchoolmaſter is 12 bolls barley, beſides the emoluments ariſing from the office of ſeſſion-clerk, which is commonly conjoined with that of ſchoolmaſter, and amounts to L. 3 Sterling, excluſive of a few trifling perquiſites.

Population, &c.—The return to Dr Webſter was 1174 ſouls. At the beginning of the year 1791, there were—

Males, — — —	480
Females, — — —	560
Total, — —	1040

Farmers, — — —	68
Seamen, — — —	37
Maſons, — — —	13
Weavers, — — —	5
Tailors, — — —	5
Smiths, — — —	3
Joiners, — — —	4
Merchants, — — —	3
Labourers, — — —	35
The remainder being widows, married ſervants, and perſons of mixed profeſſions, were	57
Male-ſervants, — —	87
Female-ſervants, — —	95
Apprentices, — —	15
Married couples, — —	159
Children of the above, and reſiding with their parents, — — —	334
Widowers and widows, — —	64

In the above liſt, thoſe only are reckoned farmers who live ſolely by that occupation: But ſeveral other people in the pariſh rent a few acres of ground for the accommodation of their families.

Births, Marriages and Burials, for theſe laſt eight years.

Years.	*Births.*	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Marriages.*	*Burials.*
1783	29	18	11	8	16
1784	34	18	16	11	25
1785	32	12	20	9	19
1786	31	12	19	9	27
1787	31	19	12	13	15
1788	34	20	14	9	24
1789	35	18	17	14	30
1790	35	21	14	6	23
Sums	261	138	123	79	179

The

The number of inhabitants has not varied much for theſe laſt 20 years; vibrating generally from 1020 to 1050.

In general, the climate of this country is mild and wholeſome. There is more dry weather in the narrow ſlip along the Moray-ſhire coaſt, than in moſt other parts in Scotland, owing to the land being very low and plain, and the clouds being attracted by the high hills to the ſouthward; ſo that often in ſummer, when this pariſh is burned up with drought, rain falls in abundance in the high country. One happy conſequence of this peculiar ſituation is the goodneſs of the harveſts; even in 1782 the greateſt part of the crop here was got in without damage.—There are no extraordinary inſtances of longevity here, nor are there any diſeaſes peculiar to this diſtrict. Agues were very common about 25 or 30 years ago, in the marſhy parts of Drainy and Duffus, but have for ſome time paſt totally diſappeared. The complaints that prevail moſt among the lower claſſes of people, are obſtinate coughs and colds, attended with pain of the breaſt, difficulty of breathing, and ſwelling in the extremities, eſpecially in the winter-ſeaſon, and are very fatal. They ſeem to be occaſioned by the coldneſs and dampneſs of the houſes, and the great ſcarcity of fuel, for there are no peats nearer than the diſtance of 10 meaſured miles. If the attention of Government could be awakened to the many evils ariſing from the impolitic tax on coals, and could be prevailed upon to ſubſtitute ſome other revenue in its ſtead, it would be of eſſential benefit to the North of Scotland in general, and to this province in particular.

Produce, Rent, &c.—All the kinds of grain raiſed in Scotland ſucceed here; but barley is the principal crop. Flax is alſo cultivated, but to no great extent. Potatoes thrive admirably well in our light ground, and ſerve for the

the ſubſiſtence of the poor, at leaſt a third part of the year. Agriculture is the chief employment of the people; yet the modern improvements in huſbandry are only in their infancy. Incloſures are yet far from being general. The introduction of turnips and ſown graſſes promiſes to be of infinite advantage, as proper food for our cattle was ſcarce both in ſummer and winter. There are in the pariſh in all about 96 ploughs; the number of horſes is from 300 to 400; the black cattle about double that number; ſheep from 1500 to 2000, and from 20 to 30 ſwine or hogs.—The rent of land, when paid in grain, is from a boll to a boll and a half of bear or oats, Linlithgow meaſure, the Scotch acre; but it is the practice here to allow 5 firlots of oats to a boll, being nearly equal to an Engliſh quarter. Lands, when ſet for money alone, give from 15s. to 20s. and 21s. the acre.—In ſome part of this pariſh the teinds are drawn in kind, that is, the tenth ſhock or ſheaf is carried off the field before the corns are ſtacked, and this is commonly reckoned equal to a third of the rent actually paid.

Prices, Wages, &c. — The price of bear and oats for theſe laſt 10 years, has not been leſs than 15s. the boll, at an average. Beef and mutton commonly ſell in the Elgin market from 3d. to 4d. the lb. Amſterdam weight; geeſe from 1s. 6d. to 2s.; hens and ducks from 8d. to 9d. each; eggs 1½d. the dozen.—The ordinary wages of male day-labourers here, without victuals, are 8d. in ſummer, and of females 4d.; but both get higher wages in harveſt. Men-ſervants employed in huſbandry commonly get from L. 5 to L. 8, and women-ſervants from 30s. to 40s. a-year, and their victuals. Victual at the Reformation was converted at half a merk Scotch the boll.

Minerals,

Minerals, Rocks, &c.—In the Coulart hill, between Loſſiemouth and Stotfield, there are appearances of lead: Many detached maſſes of ore are to be ſeen in the rocks. Some adventurers, however, lately came from England, and after ſpending above L. 500 Sterling, could diſcover no vein of ore worth the expence of working. The hill of Cauſea, or Cave-ſea, conſiſts of one uninterrupted maſs of free-ſtone, more than a mile long, divided into horizontal ſtrata of different degrees of thickneſs and hardneſs, but generally ſoft and friable. This hill forms a very bold ſhore; and the violence of the winds and ſurge, has cut and excavated the free-ſtone rock ſo as to form many curious arches, caves, and pyramids, of various ſizes and figures. Theſe rocks are covered, in ſummer, with different kinds of plants of variegated colours, and are frequented by crows, pigeons, gulls, and other birds, in prodigious numbers. In the ſummer time, the noiſe of the ſea below, the varied cries of the birds, the beauty of the flowers, and the grandeur of the rocks, all heighten the ſcenery of the place. There was alſo at Loſſiemouth, in a natural cave, a ſmall hermitage, not exceeding 10 feet ſquare, called St Gerardine's Cave, which commanded a view of the ſhore as far as Cullen, and was adorned with a handſome Gothic door and window; but theſe artificial decorations were pulled down about 25 years ago, by a rude ſhipmaſter; and in the courſe of working the quarries, the whole cave has ſince been totally deſtroyed. There was a ſpring in the rock above the hermitage, called St Gerardine's Well; but neither this, nor any other ſprings in the pariſh, have acquired fame for their medicinal virtues.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The inhabitants of this pariſh, like all others employed in huſbandry, are robuſt and healthy. Their general character is that of a ſober, honeſt, peaceable

peaceable people, regular in their attendance on the ordinances of religion, rather grave than lively, ſeldom indulging themſelves in any relaxation or diverſion, excepting the young people, who ſometimes take a dance at Chriſtmas, or at a penny-wedding*. Crimes of great enormity are unknown here. There has not been an inſtance of ſuicide during the 22 years of the preſent miniſter's incumbency; nor has any native of this pariſh been hanged or baniſhed, in the memory of man. This regularity of conduct muſt in part be aſcribed to the poverty and depreſſion of the people; for the ſituation of the ſmall tenants in this country, in general, is far from being comfortable. Few of them have any capital to begin the world with; and fewer have any inclination to adopt the modern improvements in huſbandry, while the rents of their farms, and the wages of their ſervants, have of late been conſiderably advanced. The laſt article, in particular, is nearly doubled within theſe 20 years paſt. One advantage they derive from their vicinity to the ſea, in being ſupplied from the ſhores with a conſiderable quantity of ſea-weed, which is a valuable manure.

It is perhaps a ſingular circumſtance, that, in this pariſh, there is no lawyer, writer, attorney, phyſician, ſurgeon, apothecary, negro, Jew, gipſy, Engliſhman, Iriſhman, foreigner of any deſcription, nor family of any religious ſect or denomination, except the Eſtabliſhed Church.

There are 4 ale-houſes, and fewer would hardly accommodate the neighbourhood, as there is generally a reſort of ſtrangers to ſea-port towns. There can be no doubt but an

* A penny-wedding is when the expence of the marriage entertainment is not defrayed by the young couple, or their relations, but by a club among the gueſts. Two hundred people of both ſexes, will ſometimes be convened on an occaſion of this kind.

an increaſe of them would prove a real nuiſance, and contribute materially to corrupt the morals of the people.

The only language here is Scotch; but the pronounciation is gradually approaching nearer to the Engliſh*. Gaelic is not ſpoken nearer than 20 miles; and very few of the names of places here ſeem derived from it.

There are no bridges in this pariſh, excepting a ſmall one of 3 arches on the outlet from the loch of Spynie; nor is there any on the river Loſſie below Elgin, though much wanted. The roads here are all made by the ſtatute-labour; and though better than they were formerly, are ſtill far from what they ought to be: And this is the more inexcuſable, as they are more eaſily made here than in moſt counties in Scotland. On the highland road to Edinburgh, a traveller meets with no turnpikes or tolls till he arrives at Perth.

I have often thought, that the deſtruction of grain by pigeons was much greater than commonly ſuppoſed. There are 4 pigeon-houſes here; each of which, at a moderate computation, conſumes 20 bolls of corn annually.

* The greateſt peculiarity of the Moray dialect is ſounding Wh like F; What, Where, When, for inſtance, are pronounced by the vulgar, Fat, Far, Fan.

NUM-

NUMBER XI.

PARISH OF ARDERSIER.

(County of Inverness.)

By the Rev. Mr Pryse Campbell.

Name, Situation, Extent, Soil and Surface.

ARDERSIER is written *Ardnaſeer* in the charters of the pariſh. According to tradition, it obtained its name from a great number of carpenters being drowned in the ferry, oppoſite to the point of Arderſier; this accident happened, it is ſaid, in the year in which the Cathedral at Elgin, and that at Channonry or Fortroſe, were built. In the Gaelic language, *ſaor* is "a carpenter," and *ard* is "high." That part of the pariſh adjoining to the ſea, and by which it is waſhed, is exceeding high, upwards of 100 yards, and it is probable enough that the pariſh might have received its name from ſuch an accident; but it is fully as natural to conclude that it obtained its name from its high ſituation, and that *Ardna ſaor* (Ardnaſeer) is a corruption from *ard'n Fhaobhair*, which ſignifies "the "high edge" or "height of the edge," *i. e.* of the hill. The pariſh is in the preſbytery of Nairn, and Synod of Moray. Its length is two and a half miles, and breadth the ſame. It is bounded by the pariſh of Petty, on

on the W. and S.; by the pariſh of Nairn, on the E.; by the Moray frith, on the N. The greateſt part of the old cultivated land lies high, but much of what is not in culture is low. There is a great variety of ſoils; deep black mould, ſtrong clay, light black mould, and ſhallow ſandy ſoil. The pariſh in general is very fertile. The ſhore very ſandy and flat from Inverneſs to Nairn.

Population.—The number of inhabitants, according to the oldeſt people now alive, would not exceed 300, 60 or even 50 years ago. Dr Webſter's ſtate was 428; the amount of the inhabitants now is 802. Males 385; females 417. In the village of Campbelltown, which owes its birth to the garriſon of Fort-George, there are 293 ſouls. The garriſon of Fort-George, excluſive of the marching regiment ſtationed in it, but including 3 companies of invalids, conſiſts of 496 ſouls, of whom are 246 males, and 250 females.

The annual average of births for 10 years paſt, is	20
The number of deaths in 1789, —	13
——— marriages in 1789, — —	5
Under 10 years of age, — — —	179
The number of fiſhermen, women and children included, males 66, females 61, —	127
Male labouring ſervants, — —	41
Female ditto, — — —	40

None are under any neceſſity to leave the pariſh for want of employment, but many go ſouth in ſummer and harveſt, owing to the difference of wages.

Agriculture, &c.—Of black cattle there are about 300; horſes, 100; ſheep, about 500. The pariſh contains 1985 acres, excluſive of the king's farm; in raiſing corn

and undergraſs, about 1018 acres; in muir, 966; under artificial graſs, about 168. It ſupplies itſelf, and exports about 300 bolls. The rent of the pariſh, including the farm ſold to Government when the garriſon of Fort-George was built, is L. 365; the rent of that farm ſeparately is L. 50. The rent for an acre of the beſt arable land is 30 s.; of inferior land, is from 5 s. to 7 s. 6 d. This pariſh is moſtly in the poſſeſſion of 1 farmer, but the greateſt part he ſubſets into farms from 20 to 30 acres. Great quantities of ſea-ware fit for manure are ſometimes thrown in by the tides. There are ſcarcely any incloſures except a few of feal or earth. The common people are inimical to them, as they are almoſt to every proper method of cultivating their land. In 1782 and 1783, the people were in a miſerable ſituation, many of them would have periſhed, had it not been for the grain imported from other countries: The boll of Engliſh peaſe, barley and rye, ſold for 28 s.

Church, Stipend and Poor.—The church and manſe, which are in a ruinous ſtate, were built with clay in 1769. The ſtipend is 80 bolls of barley, and L. 10 of money; the glebe is worth L. 8. Mr Campbell of Calder is patron. The number of poor is 50; the only fund for their relief is the annual collections, which amount to L. 15.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The pariſh has its advantages and diſadvantages. Its vicinity to Fort-George, where every thing may be ſold, is a particular conveniency, and the ware obtained from the ſhore is of great value. The diſadvantages are want of woods and ſtones. The air is extremely ſharp; in winter very piercing. The Gaelic and Engliſh languages are ſpoken equally well. The names of all the towns are derived from the Gaelic; for inſtance, *Balnagoſen*, "Smith town;" *Balnafian* "Fin-

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" gal's town," &c. The common price of beef, veal, mutton, lamb, pork, is 3d. the lb.; a gooſe 2 s.; a duck 6d.; a chicken 3d.; a hen 6d.; butter 8d. the lb. $17\frac{1}{4}$ oz. to the lb.; cheeſe 5 s. the ſtone; wheat 24 s. barley 16 s. and 18 s. oats 16 s. the boll. Labourers in huſbandry receive 8d. a-day. By the better ſort, coal is the fuel made uſe of, by the country-people peats and turf. The average price of coal the barrel is 2 s.; peats 8d. the load, about 70 peats to a load. The coal is brought from Sunderland and Newcaſtle. The moſs is 3 miles diſtant, and is almoſt exhauſted. Male ſervants for labouring receive L. 4 and L. 5 a-year, female from L. 1, 10 s. to L. 2. The Scotch plough is uſed by the common tenants; the Engliſh plough, and Lord Kaimes's plough with a chain, by the principal farmers. There are 8 boats, from 5 to 8 tons burden, employed in white and herring fiſhing; the herrings are chiefly ſold to fiſhing buſſes. Beſides herring, the fiſh produced on the coaſt are, haddocks, cod, ſalmon: The prices have been high and variable for 6 years back, owing to ſcarcity: They are ſold to the inhabitants of Fort-George, Inverneſs, and the country around. Eight ſeamen entered into the navy laſt war; 4 have entered this year. The roads are exceeding good. The ſtatute-labour is exacted. Where this pariſh is divided from that of Nairn, there is a ſtone about 6 feet high and 3 broad: This ſtone in the Gaelic language obtains the name of *claoch na cabbac*; in the Engliſh, or rather Scotch, " cabbac ſtone." *Cabbac* or *cabback*, ſignifies a cheeſe. The report of tradition is, that it was erected there over a chieftain who fell in a ſcuffle which originated about a cheeſe, in the town of Inverneſs; the death of one of the chiefs put an end to the battle, where the ſtone is erected. This ſtory is told by the oldeſt people in the country, and obtains credit.

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NUM-

NUMBER XII.

PARISH OF TEALING.

(County of Forfar.)

By the Rev. Mr John Gellatly.

Name, Situation, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.

THE name of the pariſh, (ſometimes corruptly ſpelled *Telin*), is Gaelic, and ſignifies "a country of brooks "or waters;" in which, indeed, this ſmall diſtrict abounds. It is ſituated in the preſbytery of Dundee, and Synod of Angus and Mearns. It lies along the ſouth ſide of the Seidlaw hills, and is about 3 Engliſh miles from E. to W.; and from 2 to 1 N. and S. excluſive of two ſmall farms which run out about 2 miles farther to the N.; and a third entirely detached from it on the W. It is is bounded on the W. by the pariſh of Auchterhouſe; by thoſe of Glammis and Kinnettles on the N.; by Inverarity and Murroſe on the E.; and on the S. by Mains and Strathmartine. Its boundary on the N. is, for the greater part, a line running along the ridge of the hills juſt mentioned; on the S. the little water of Fithie. The only hills in the pariſh are thoſe of Seidlaw, the moſt conſiderable range in this county next to the Grampians. Their tops are covered with heath; farther down, there is

a good deal of broom, interſperſed with patches of ſhort graſs, affording good paſture for young black cattle. On the moſt eaſterly within this pariſh, is a beautiful plantation of firs, containing not leſs than 150 acres. The ſummit of the higheſt, called Craig Owl, is found, by actual meaſurement, to be 1100 feet above the plain; but the plain itſelf is full 500 feet above the level of the ſea. There is ſome grey ſlate, a good deal of moor-ſtone, and plenty of free-ſtone. The laſt, however, lies rather deep, and is ſomewhat difficult to be got at.

The cultivated part of the pariſh forms a plain gently declining towards the S.; of a ſoil light and gravelly towards the hill, rather fitter for paſture than tillage, black, deep and rich, ſometimes inclining to clay in the middle; in the ſouthern parts rather marſhy, and moſtly uſed as paſture, or natural meadow. The great fault of the ſoil in general is an exceſs of moiſture, owing partly to the vicinity of the hill, but chiefly to a ſtratum of clay, or rather clay and gravel, which runs immediately under the whole of it. The air is rather moiſt and cold, yet not, upon the whole, unhealthful. Sickly people from other quarters, ſometimes find a ſummer's reſidence in it beneficial. The rheumatiſm is the only diſtemper remarkably prevalent. It may in part be owing to the nature of the air; but more probably to the damp earthen floors, and inſufficient doors and windows of the greater part of the houſes.

Population.—The population of this pariſh, according to the return made to Dr Webſter, amounted to 735 ſouls. At preſent the number of ſouls is 802; of families 158, perſons to a family, 5. The people live all of them in ſingle houſes, or in hamlets. The increaſe in the population is to be aſcribed to the erection of ſome new farms. Several young people every year move to the ſouthward,

to

to learn the handicraft trades. The annual average of births is 23; of marriages, 6; of burials, 18. A woman, about 20 years ago, died here, at the age of 102. There are 5 heritors, only one of whom reſides. The number of conſiderable farmers is 13. Beſides theſe, there may be 15 or 16 who poſſeſs from 10 to 30 acres each, and 1 or 2 horſes. The other great claſs of inhabitants is weavers, of which there are about 90 employed in the manufacture of coarſe linens, which find a ready market at Dundee. The flax is moſtly foreign, and brought from the town juſt mentioned; but the far greater part of the yarn is ſpun in the pariſh. Two families of Independents are the only diſſenters from the Eſtabliſhed Church.

Cultivation, Produce, &c.—Water has been long uſed as a manure in ſeveral parts of this county, and in other quarters of the kingdom; but as the ſubject of watering in general, is either altogether omitted, or but ſlightly mentioned by ſeveral of our beſt writers on huſbandry, the ſubſequent account of the mode of watering land, adopted by Mr Scrymſoure of Tealing, may be of ſome utility.

Mr Scrymſoure waters no lands but ſuch as are of a dry black or loamy ſoil. Sand can receive but little benefit from water, as it cannot retain it for any time. Clay is rather chilled, and (eſpecially if the following ſeaſon prove remarkably dry) too much hardened by it. He does not water any field till it has been at leaſt two years in graſs. Perhaps the year before it is broken up, is the moſt proper for the operation. He finds the ſpring and autumn to be the fitteſt ſeaſons for it. If it be done in the ſpring, it ſhould be before the graſs has made any conſiderable advances, otherwiſe that crop will be apt to ſuffer by it. If in autumn, it will be proper to draw off the water before the ſtrong froſts ſet in. Previous to the operation, it is neceſſary to ſpread the mole-

hills

hills with grear care; as alſo with the foot, to preſs down the run of moles, ſo far as it can be diſcerned, as it is very apt to draw off the water in an improper direction. The proceſs commences with the drawing of water-furrows. Firſt, one broad and deep furrow is drawn in the crown, and from end to end of the head-ridge, on the higheſt ſide of the field. This is to ſerve as a channel for the whole water you intend to make uſe of; and muſt be enlarged to a ſufficient capacity with the ſpade, if it cannot be done with the plough. If the ridges be level, another furrow is drawn parallel to the firſt, of equal length to it, and about 8 or 10 yards diſtant from it; and furrows in this manner are drawn down through the whole field. The more the ground ſlopes, the more numerous theſe furrows muſt be; and care muſt always be taken, that the ſward turned up by the plough, be thrown upon the lower ſide.

The water is then brought in at the higheſt corner of the field, and allowed to run in the channel or great furrow, for the breadth of 4, 5, or perhaps 6 ridges, according to the quantity of the ſtream. It is then dammed up, when upon a ſmall opening being made in the lower ſide of the furrow, oppoſite to the crown of each ridge, it pours itſelf in an equal manner into the field below. It is ſoon intercepted by the next furrow, which ſerves not only as a channel for it, but as a dam-dike to make it ſpread itſelf over a conſiderable part of the ground immediately above: When it begins to overflow, let ſmall apertures be made in the furrow oppoſite to thoſe mentioned before, and for the ſame purpoſe. In this manner is it ſent from furrow to furrow, till it reaches the loweſt ſide of the field. When the firſt 5 or 6 ridges are done ſufficiently, (that is, when they are ſaturated with the water, which may be known by the ſoft ſwelling of the ground,

and

and the bright verdure of the graſs), open the main furrow againſt other 5 or 6, and thus go along the whole.

When the ridges are much raiſed in the crown, as is ſtill the caſe in many parts of the country, the furrows muſt be made in a different manner. One communicating with the firſt or great furrow muſt be drawn down the crown of every ridge, unleſs it was cloven when laid down in graſs. From this again, at every 6 or 8 yards diſtance, others muſt be made, pointing obliquely down the ſides of the ridge, till they meet and form an angle with others drawn in the ſame manner on the next ridge, taking care, as in the caſe above mentioned, that the plough throw the earth toward the lower ſide. The water is then let down into the crown-furrows, and ſtopped at proper diſtances, ſo as to make it ſpread over both ſides of the ridge.

It would be vain to attempt to give directions for every particular ſituation or ſurface of ground. The great general rule is to draw your furrows in ſuch a manner as to diſtribute the water equally and plentifully over every part. By attending to this, and taking a careful ſurvey of the field, an intelligent ploughman will very ſoon ſee what he has to do. This alſo is to be attended to, after the water is brought upon the ground, and it will require a daily viſit from a careful hand with a ſpade, to remove obſtructions that may have dropt into the furrows; to place others properly; and to lead the water to ſuch heights and dry ſpots as may have been overlooked. Mr S. ſometimes employed a man for this ſole purpoſe. It is ever to be kept in mind, that it is only when made to ſtand or ſtagnate on the ground, that water operates to advantage: But whether this be by depoſiting on the ſoil ſuch rich particles, as make the immediate food of plants, or by diſſolving and macerating it; or which is moſt probable,

bable, by both theſe means, it is not neceſſary here to determine. Indeed Mr S. is inclined to think that it excites a proper fermentation, and the ſoftneſs which the ſoil thereby acquires and preſerves for a conſiderable time after, together with ſome other circumſtances, ſeems to favour the ſuppoſition.

While the ground is under water, and even for ſome days after it is laid dry, no cattle of any kind ſhould be allowed to ſet foot on it. The water ſhould be withdrawn rather gradually as otherwiſe, at leaſt in a dry ſeaſon, the graſs will be a little apt to decay. There is no ſtriking difference between the effects of water which runs from pools, or ſoft water of any kind, and thoſe of hard water immediately from the ſpring. The former is, no doubt, preferable, but the latter will ſerve the purpoſe very well; and this ſeems to be agreeable to the experiments of Dr Home.—Such is the method of watering land, which Mr S. has followed with great ſucceſs for nearly the ſpace of fifty years. There is one incloſure of his which, by this management, was brought from an exhauſted ſtate into good heart, and preſerved an uncommon degree of fertility for a ſucceſſion of crops (one of them wheat) without fallow, lime or marl, and with very moderate aſſiſtance from dung.

With reſpect to the ſubject in general, it may be obſerved, that water not only ſerves to enrich the land for future crops of corn, but alſo generally ſecures an early and a large crop of graſs the year in which it is applied, a matter of conſiderable importance, eſpecially in a dry and backward ſpring. Perhaps the only inconveniency attending it is its encouraging weeds of a certain kind, ſuch as, thiſtles, ragweed, &c.; but this appears to be fully balanced by the deſtruction it occaſions to weeds of another

kind, ſuch as commonly infeſt dry lands, but never thrive in water.

As to grain and other crops, it appears from ſeveral circumſtances, that wheat was cultivated long ago to a conſiderable extent. The culture of it was revived about 10 or 12 years ſince; when, after a very fair trial by a number of hands, it was entirely given up as unprofitable. It was found to ripen late and to impoveriſh the ſoil. Oats, barley, and a few haſting peaſe, are the only kinds of grain raiſed at preſent. About 20 acres may be employed in the culture of flax. Turnip and potatoes are raiſed on every farm, as are alſo clover and rye-graſs. Some yams have been planted within theſe few years, and the farmers ſeem to approve of them.

Of foreſt-trees the aſh, fir, elm and beech, thrive well. Oaks of a large ſize have been dug up in ſome moſſy parts of the plain, and ſome that have been planted of late are ſufficiently forward, Fruit-trees grow much to wood, and it muſt be owned difficult to raiſe fruit: The difficulty however is ſenſibly decreaſing, both the air and ſoil becoming more kindly by draining and planting the latter, particularly on the eaſt.

The number of horſes is about 200, about one third of which may be reared in the pariſh. Black cattle being uſed in labour now, there are about 30 kept for that purpoſe; cows about 300. With regard to ſheep, it is remarkable, that about 25 years ago there were 12 ſmall flocks in the pariſh, but that now there is not a ſingle animal of the kind, ſave a few kept by a gentleman moſtly for the uſe of his own family. They were found deſtructive to the ſown graſs, and liable to periſh for want of proper ſhelter. Young black cattle have been, with great advantage, put in their place.

The

The number of arable acres is about 3000. The pariſh does much more than ſupply itſelf with the articles of oat-meal, barley, beef, ale, whiſky and potatoes. It may ſend to Dundee and other places,

Barley, 900 bolls, at 13s. 4d. -	L. 600
Oat-meal, 500 ditto, at ditto, - -	330
Calves for the butchers, 150, -	100
Coarſe linens, to the value of - -	4000
Black cattle, 200, - - -	1400
Hay, 10,000 ſtone, - - -	330
Whiſky, - - -	200
Milk, butter and cheeſe, - -	500
	L. 7460

The people always ſow as ſoon as the ſeaſon and the condition of the land permit; it muſt, however, be owned that they reap rather later than ſome of their neighbours. Harveſt commonly begins about the 10th September. There are about 280 acres in wood; arable incloſed, 550. The land-rent is about L. 1400.

Church and Stipend, School and Poor.—The church is of very ancient foundation, having been firſt built by Boniface, a legate or rather miſſionary from Rome, about A. D. 690. The preſent fabric, however, bears no marks of antiquity, and is but indifferent both as to ſtyle and condition. A few fragments of carved ſtones ſeem to indicate that the original church was an elegant Gothic ſtructure. The ſtipend is about 2000 merks Scots, excluſive of the manſe and garden; as to the glebe, it would be, as it generally is in the country, rather a diſadvantage, if the incumbent had not been ſo lucky as to get a ſmall farm. The Crown is patron.

The

The average number of ſcholars at the parochial ſchool is only about 30, owing to the badneſs of the roads here in the winter-ſeaſon, and the nearneſs of the ſkirts of the pariſh to the ſchools of the pariſhes around. The quarterly payments are, for Engliſh, 1s. 6d.; for writing, 2s.; for arithmetic, 2s. 6d. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is L.6 Sterling, and as ſeſſion-clerk he receives L 2, with about L. 1 more in perquiſites for baptiſms and marriages. His whole emoluments, excluſive of a houſe, garden and ſmall glebe of about an Engliſh acre, do not exceed L. 17 Sterling. The number of conſtant poor is 4; of thoſe who receive occaſional ſupplies, 5.

The collections weekly, amount in the year, to L. 15
The rent of ſeats belonging to the kirk-ſeſſion, to - 6
The intereſt of L. 200 Sterling, to - 10

At preſent there is not one beggar.

Wages, &c.—Common wages of a day-labourer in huſbandry, 8d. and victuals; in time of harveſt, 1s. a man, and 9d. a woman, beſides victuals. About 40 years ago, wages were 6d. or 4d. and victuals. As a child, in this part of the country, commonly finds employment at 8 or 9 years of age, a labourer has ſeldom, entirely at leaſt, upon his hands above 3 children at once; that number he brings up without aſſiſtance. The incumbent does not remember any man's aſking aſſiſtance from the poors funds on account of the number of his children, however great, if he and they were in health. If they are all well, his wife, beſides taking care of her family, may earn a ſhilling a-week by ſpinning; nay, provided they have a cow, which is generally the caſe, ſhe may earn other two ſhillings in the ſame ſpace by the ſale of butter for 3 months in the year. When a ploughman does not eat in the family, he is allowed for victuals 6 bolls and a half of oatmeal in the year,

year, and a Scotch pint of milk a-day: Of the meal he can eaſily ſell one boll after ſupplying himſelf. The wages of a good ploughman, in general, are from L. 8 to L. 9 Sterling, annually; thoſe of a maid-ſervant, including her bounties, as they are called, L. 3. The prices of moſt kinds of proviſions are double of what they were 30 years ago; oat-meal, however, has riſen little more than one fourth.

Antiquities.—On the farm of Prieſtown, near the Glammis road, was diſcovered ſome years ago a ſubterraneous building of a very irregular conſtruction. It was compoſed of large flat ſtones, without any cement, and conſiſted of 2 or 3 apartments, not above 5 feet wide, covered with ſtones of the ſame kind. Some wood-aſhes, ſeveral fragments of large earthen veſſels, and one of the ancient hand-mills called querns, were the only things found in it. It was moſtly filled up with rich black earth. A little weſtward from the houſe of Tealing, about 60 or 70 years ago, was diſcovered an artificial cave or ſubterraneous paſſage, ſuch as is ſometimes called by the country people a weem. It was compoſed of large looſe ſtones; was about 4 feet high, and as many wide, and was ſaid to be traced up to a conſiderable length. There were found in it a broad earthen veſſel, and an inſtrument reſembling an adze, both of them formed very neatly. It ſtill exiſts, but is covered up. On the farm of Balckembeck are ſeveral great round ſtones placed in a circle, evidently the remains of a Druidical temple. In two ſandy hillocks, within theſe 20 years, were found ſtone coffins, containing the ſkull and bones of a human body, with urns of earthen ware and aſhes in them. About 30 years ago there was found in the mires, a veſſel ſomewhat reſembling a kettle, about 2 feet in diameter, and 1 foot deep. Its materials (braſs mixed

mixed with ſome other metal) and its elegant ſhape, gave it much the appearance of an antique vaſe. It was melted down, but its ſubſtance is ſtill preſerved in the form of a modern pots. It is pretty plain from *Tacit. in Vit. Agric.* that the Romans were well acquainted with the country between the Grampian mountains and the frith of Tay.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The people, in general, are of the middle ſize. They are exceedingly induſtrious, œconomical, rather plainer in dreſs than their neighbours, and not fond of a military life. Generally they are charitable and very helpful to one another. The condition of the people, for the moſt part, is rather more than tolerable, and they are apparently contented with it. It might, however, be, in ſome meaſure, improved at nogreat expence, by making their cottages more comfortable and convenient, by raiſing better fences round their gardens, and introducing among them the culture of a few more nouriſhing vegetables.

The roads, in general, are bad, and have been much neglected. An act, however, has been lately obtained for turnpikes throughout the county, and is already begun to be put in execution, but many people think they will prove too expenſive.

The rent of the greater part of the open land is about 9s. the acre. Some, however, in the hands of the ſmaller tenants, gives from 15s. to 20s. Incloſed ground lets from 15s. to 25s. according to its quality. The farms are from about 100 to 150 acres; two farmers, however, poſſeſs conſiderably more. The number of farms is rather increaſing, and many cottars and ſubtenants have, within theſe 20 years, been put immediately under their lairds.

About

About one ſixth of the arable land is incloſed, and all the farmers, it is believed, are convinced of the advantages of incloſing. The fences are moſtly of ſtone.

The people have improved much in dreſs and manners. Among the men, inſtead of the bonnet and coarſe home-made woollens, the hat, Engliſh cloth and cotton ſtuffs, are much worn, and almoſt every ploughman has his ſilver watch. The women ſtill retain the plaid, but among the better ſort it is now ſometimes of ſilk or lined with ſilk, and numbers of them, on occaſions, dreſs in ribbons, printed cottons, white ſtockings and laſting ſhoes. The labouring ſervants, formerly ignorant and lazy, are now generally ſkilful and laborious. The wages both of men and women are doubled. The Sunday's collection, and all the poors funds, are doubled. The land-rent is more than doubled. The farmers live in a much more ſociable manner, and entertain with great hoſpitality. Their houſes, formerly covered with thatch, are now generally ſlated, and contain 2 floors. There are ſome among them that ſtill adhere to the old method of farming, yet a conſiderable number are well acquainted with the principles of the new huſbandry, and practiſe accordingly. They fallow; they manure with compoſt, marl and lime, ſome of the laſt brought even from England; and they crop judiciouſly.

The heritors, notwithſtanding the diſadvantage moſt of them lie under by reſiding at a diſtance, have all done ſomething in the way of improvement. As Mr Scrymſoure of Tealing reſides on the ſpot, his improvements have been extenſive in proportion: He has, within theſe 30 years, planted about 260 acres of moor-ground with trees of different kinds; among which are many thouſand larches, (a tree which thrives here beyond moſt others); incloſed and properly ſubdivided upwards of 300 acres

of

of arable with good ſtone fences, and near 100 acres of paſture and meadow ground with hedge and ditch; erected 3 conſiderable new farms; let a number of convenient poſſeſſions to the manufacturers at very reaſonable rents; doubled his rents upon the whole; and all without bringing any incumbrance upon his eſtate: He keeps a conſiderable farm in his own hand, and excites his tenants to the practice of good huſbandry by his own example.

The fuel commonly uſed is turf, which is brought from the neighbouring hills. Coal is likewiſe tranſported from Dundee, and its uſe is greatly increaſing. There are from 40 to 50 ploughs made after the beſt form.

In this pariſh there are ſtill ſome cottagers on almoſt every farm. Farmers differ ſomewhat in their notions about employing them. It is generally allowed, that turning off cottagers has an immediate tendency to make a ſcarcity of hands, and of conſequence to raiſe wages; and that where there are no people of this deſcription, it occaſions one conſiderable inconvenience in the time of harveſt, as then the corns muſt be cut down chiefly by ſtrangers, who, in tedious harveſts and rainy weather, are a heavy burden on the farmer. Cottagers, after all, are generally in a poor and dependent ſituation, and perhaps little villages of manufacturers and tradeſmen, immediately dependent on the land-owner, might anſwer the purpoſes of the farmer equally well, would be happier in themſelves, and of greater advantage to their country.

NUMBER XIII.

PARISH OF DALLAS.

(County of Elgin.)

By the Rev. Mr David Milne.

Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.

THE name of this pariſh is derived from *Dale uis, i. e.* 'Watered Valley.' Dallas is in the preſbytery of Forres, Synod of Moray, and county of Elgin. It is 12 miles from E. to W. and 9 from N. to S.; the form is oval. It is bounded by the pariſhes of Rothes and Birnie, on the S. E. and E.; of Elgin, on the N. E. and N.; of Baſford and Edenkillie, on the N. W. and W.; and of Knockando and Cromdale, on the S. W. and S. It is ſurrounded by hills, ſo as to form a valley or ſtrath, almoſt equally divided from S. W. to E. by the ſmall river Loſſie, and interſected by ſeveral burns or rivulets, falling from the ſurrounding hills into Loſſie. Theſe burns partly bound the pariſh on the E. and N. and partly fall into Loſſie within the bounds of the pariſh. The ſurrounding hills are covered with heath. The ſoil is black and moſſy, excepting ſome fields or haughs on the Loſſie banks.

Fine ſmall trout are found in Loſſie during the ſummer. In September and October, finnac or white trout are got, from 1 lb. to 3 lb. and a few ſmall ſalmon.

The fields on Loſſie banks are very ſubject to inundations. Theſe do much damage, by breaking through and carrying away the beſt of the ſoil, notwithſtanding the attention and

exertions of the proprietor and his tenants. In ſummer alſo, and harveſt, the corns and graſs within reach, are hurt by gravel and ſand left upon them. The moſt remarkable inundations were in 1768, 1782, 1786, and 1789.

Population.—Shaw's Hiſtory of Moray, publiſhed 1775, reckons the catechiſable perſons about 500. Dr Webſter's ſtatement, about 40 or 50 years ago, is 700. The preſent incumbent found the number of ſouls in July and Auguſt 1778, to be 917: Of whom 84 were under 6 years of age; 434 were males, 483 females. In 1788, the number amounted to 888, of whom 426 were males, 462 females.

TABLE.

Annual average of baptiſms for 20 years, from the year 1770 to 1789, is - - - -	25
Annual average of males baptized, about -	13
——————— of females - - - -	12
Annual average of marriages from the end of the year 1774, till that of 1782, is -	8
Annual average of deaths in the ſame period -	15
Annual average of males who died, about -	8
——————— females, nearly	7

A man and woman, married 63 years, died here, the huſband in the 95th year of his age, and the wife aged 93. Upwards of 20 young men, ſince the year 1778, particularly ſince the years 1783 and 1784, have emigrated to America and other foreign parts. A few have gone into England. Some families and ſingle perſons to the ſouth of Scotland, and families alſo and unmarried perſons into the neighbouring towns for employment. There are not above ſix or eight uninhabited houſes at moſt, ſince the year 1778, and only a few erections have been made ſince that period; but a great many ſome years before.

Produce,

Produce, &c.—Potatoes are raiſed for family uſe, and a few garden and field turnip, principally for the ſame purpoſe. Natural oaks, birch and allar, apple, pear, plum, gean and cherry trees grow in ſeveral places, and ſome large incloſures of planted firs, of a pretty old ſtanding, large enough for deals, farm-houſe couples, &c.

Barley, rye, and oats, are raiſed in the pariſh. Very little flax is cultivated, and a few fields are laid down in graſs.

Ever ſince the preſent incumbent was ſettled, (1778,) unleſs in a few inſtances, the crops have been found inſufficient to maintain the inhabitants or their cattle. Living, however, in the vicinity of Elgyn and Forres, they are employed in carrying peats twice a-week to market. This enables them to purchaſe ſome additional proviſions for their families, and alſo corn, or corn and fodder in the ſeaſon, when a deficiency at home requires a ſupply. Sowing does not become general till towards the middle of April. The climate admits not of it earlier: And the tenants, doubtleſs, owing to the poverty of the ſoil, think they have the cleaner crop the later ſown. Of courſe, it is the middle or rather the end of November before all the corns are got in. From 1s. to 15s. may be the rent of each acre, from the leaſt improved muir to the higheſt cultivated field. Every pariſh in the north of Scotland, doubtleſs, ſuffered by the failure of crop 1782; among which, it may be conceived, this pariſh had its melancholy ſhare. A liberal ſhare of bounty-meal was, at that period, allowed for the indigent in the pariſh. The firſt and ſecond moieties, *gratis*, came moſt ſeaſonably in ſummer 1783, or before the corns were ripe. The third and laſt moiety from Government, at $6\frac{1}{2}$ d. a peck, came alſo ſeaſonably a ſhort time thereafter.

Miſcellaneous

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The air is ſharp and dry. The inhabitants are generally healthy. The ſmall-pox is become leſs fatal by means of inoculation.

There are ſome chalybeate ſprings, but ſeldom reſorted to.—The pariſh abounds in grey ſlate quarries. There is likewiſe a freeſtone quarry of excellent quality.

Towards the top of the eaſt gable of the church, in a niche on the outſide of the wall, ſtands a ſtone weather-beaten effigy, of about 4 feet high and 2 broad, of a ſaint, called Michael, to whom the church is ſaid to be dedicated. In the middle of the church-yard, there ſtill remains, entire, a neat erect well cut ſtone pillar, anciently the croſs, to which are ſtill brought the cattle and effects of ſome bankrupts. A large ſquare ſtone, above ground, is the pedeſtal. The capital a *fleur de luce*, covered with moſs, emblematical of a hoary head, and the whole height from the ground 12 feet.

Each tenant has a horſe, for the moſt part, bought at market; many have 2, ſome 3 or 4. Several farmers have a flock of goats for the accommodation of tender people in ſummer. The pariſh is ſufficiently ſtocked with black cattle of the common Scotch breed. There are a great many flocks of ſheep of a very hardy kind and tolerable ſize, commonly called Badenoch, from whence every year a ſupply of lambs is brought. The lambs are bought for about 4s. 6d. or 5s. a-piece, and, when 4 or 5 years old, are ſold from 8s. to 12s. each.

The lateneſs of the harveſt, the ſcarcity of grain, and the overflowings of Loſſie, may be reckoned among the greateſt diſadvantages of Dallas. Among its advantages may be ranked the ſalubrity of the air, inexhauſtible moſſes, the vicinity to Elgin and Forres for the ſale of peats, and to markets for the ſale of cattle: Good paſture for ſheep, goats and black cattle: Timber from the woods for many implements

ments of huſbandry, and for building farm-houſes: Fuel for their families, and minds ſtrangers to luxury and extravagance. The cart-load of peats on the ſtreet brings only from 8 d. to 10 d. in ſummer, and from 10 d. to 14 d. in winter. They are of an excellent quality, but the load is ſmall. Theſe bring always ready money, and enable the people to buy the family neceſſaries when required, and to pay the landlord at the term.

The Engliſh language is ſpoken throughout the pariſh; yet, as is the caſe in many other places, the names of the farms appear to be of Celtic derivation.

The inhabitants are much inclined to induſtry and frugality. They are alſo diſpoſed to acts of humanity. A good many weavers are conſtantly employed in making coarſe cloth, commonly called *plaiden*, from the produce of their ſheep, which, in the ſummer markets, is ſold for from 9 d. to 1 s. the Scots ell. By that, and other ſources of induſtry, they are enabled to ſupport their families and pay their rents. There are ſome cart and cart-wheel wrights, with ſome carpenters for making flakes or paling for folding cattle in ſummer, and incloſing fields.

Their dreſs and manners are conſiderably improved within theſe few years. It is thought, and earneſty to be wiſhed, that their condition may be meliorated. This, it is believed, might be done, by introducing and encouraging a ſtocking manufactory, or ſome ſuch uſeful and accommodating employment, eſpecially to occupy the young.

Laſt ſummer a petition was tranſmitted from the inhabitants of Kellas to the Honourable the Society at Edinburgh, requeſting a Society School for that quarter. Theſe families lie at a great diſtance from the parochial ſchool. Accordingly, a ſchool was appointed to be ſettled there, and

and a teacher entered at Martinmas laſt, who, ever ſince, has had a full attendance, and is aſſiduous.

There is great occaſion for a bridge over the impetuous river Loſſie. In particular, over that river, where a public road from Forres and the low country croſſes, leading to the pariſhes of Knockando, Aberlour, Inveraven, &c. The roads are in bad repair. The ſtatute-labour is but irregularly called for, and ill executed, as there are no gentlemen of property reſiding in the pariſh. Turnpikes would be altogether inefficient in Dallas.

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NUMBER XIV.

PARISH OF KIRKHILL.

(County of Inverness.)

By the Rev. Mr Alexander Fraser.

Name, Situation, and Soil.

KIRKHILL conſiſts of two united pariſhes, called Wardlaw and Farnua. *Wardlaw* is the name of the hill on which the church was built, and is a corruption of the Gaelic *Bar-tla*, that is "kindly ſummit." *Farnua* or *Fearnaie*, as it is called in Gaelic, is probably derived from the word *fearn*, ſignifying "allar," becauſe the pariſh did and ſtill does abound with allar trees. The name of the united pariſhes in Gaelic is *Cnoe-mboir*, or "Mary's hill." It is the ſame hill otherwiſe called Wardlaw, as this laſt term is expreſſive of its ſituation, ſo the former is of its dedication to the Virgin. In the neighbourhood it is called, by way of eminence, the Hill: Hence, the Engliſh tranſlation of it is Kirkhill. This pariſh is about 8 meaſured miles long and from 1 to 3 miles broad. It is bounded on the E. and S. by the pariſh of Inverneſs, on the W. by the pariſh

pariſh of Kilterlity, on the N. by the pariſhes of Kilmorack, Urray and Kilternan, being ſeparated from the three laſt mentioned, by the river Beuly and the Moray frith. It is ſituated within the county of Inverneſs, in the preſbytery of Inverneſs and Synod of Moray. For 4 miles it is a narrow ſtrip, on the declivity of a hill, inclining to the Moray frith, with a N. W. aſpect. Beyond theſe 4 miles the frith contracts and the country enlarges; but inſtead of forming a plain, a ridge of riſing ground projects into the plain, which divides it into two valleys; the ſummit of this ridge is Wardlaw or Mary's hill. The ſoil is various. In the two valleys and along the frith, that part of the land which connects the two valleys, the ſoil is a ſtrong rich clay, which by proper culture might be made very fruitful; for ſuch parts of it, as have been well cultivated, produce equal, perhaps, to any ſoil in Scotland; but when ill managed, the crop is precarious. If the beginning of the ſeaſon is very dry, the clay binds ſo faſt as to ſtint the growth of the corn; if, on the other hand, the ſeaſon is wet, the coldneſs of the clay chills the ſeed. On the riſing ground next the plain, the ſoil is a rich loam, which commonly yields a good and ſure crop. Higher ſtill, the ſoil is light on a gravelly bottom, but ſharp, and in good ſeaſons produce a tolerables crop.

Climate and Mineral Spring.—The climate, when compared with many places in the ſame country, is mild and temperate; much leſs rain falls in this pariſh, than in the height of the neighbouring pariſh of Kilterlity. The moſt prevalent diſeaſes among the poor, are ſuch as proceed from cold, as coughs, dyſenteries, and aſthmatic complaints. In the ſpring of 1783, a pleuritic fever raged, which cut off many. It was generally attributed to cold, contracted by

by cutting down the preceding crop ſo late in the ſeaſon. There is a chalybeate ſpring in this pariſh at Achnagairn. It was once much frequented, and thought to be very ſalutary for complaints of the ſtomach: But it has been quite neglected for ſome time paſt. The water, when taken up at the fountain is quite clear, nor will its colour alter by lying; but if a little rum or tea is poured into it, in a few minutes it turns black as ink. By this experiment, the ſtrength of the mineral is diſcovered, for the ſtronger the mineral is, the blacker will the colour be.

Hills, Rivers, &c.—The hills that run along the S. E. of the pariſh, are pretty high, and covered with heath. The paſture they afford is miſerably ſcanty, the ſurface being conſtantly carried off for fuel. There are ſome natural woods of birch and alder, and ſome hundreds of acres of planted fir. Indeed, all the various trees planted for uſe or ornament in Great Britain, have been ſucceſsfully introduced by ſome of the proprietors. The river Beuly runs along the N. W. boundary of the pariſh, for about 2 or 3 miles. It is navigable at high water, by ſhips of about 50 tons burden, ſo far as the village of Beuly, in the pariſh of Kilmorack. It produces abundance of excellent ſalmon, and ſeveral kinds of trouts. The ſalmon fetch on the ſpot 3d. the pound. Some years ago they ſold for 1 d. They are in ſeaſon from February till the end of Auguſt. During the ſpring they are kitted and ſent to the London market. After ſummer commences, they are ſalted and ſent to foreign places. A very ſmall proportion is ſold in the country. Herrings are taken in the frith, within this pariſh, in ſmall quantities by ſet nets: Their ſeaſon is from September to February: If any remain after that time, they are poor and inſipid. If the people who fiſh them take more than ſerves

their own families, they ſell them in the pariſh, or at Inverneſs, when plenty, at the rate of twenty ſcore for 6 d.

Birds, Beaſts, &c.—The birds that commonly frequent the ſhores of this pariſh are of the web-footed kind. The wild-gooſe, cormorant, ſcale-drake, duck, teal, widgeon, ſea-magpie, and ſwan, are rare. The gulls here are of three different ſpecies. There are the crane, curlew, plover, half plover, ſandy lark, page plover; of all which only the duck, ſcale drake, widgeon and plover, neſtle in the pariſh. Land birds, larger than a common ſparrow, are, the lark, bountain, thruſh, fieldfare, ſtarling, blackbird, ſnipe, quail, land-rail, partridge, moorfowl, black game. Rooks and wood-pigeons are ſo numerous as to be a ſerious evil to the farmer; crows and magpies are exceedingly numerous likewiſe. Migratory birds are the lapwing or green plover, cuckoo, blue and grey ſwallow, ſtone-chatter, and night-hawk. The lapwing appears in March, the cuckoo in April, ſwallows and ſtone-chatters in April or May, the night-hawk in May or June: He makes a chattering noiſe the whole night, and lives upon the butterflies or moths that fly about during the night. All theſe diſappear in October. The woodcock appears the end of October or beginning of November, and diſappears in February. The ſnow-birds appear in flocks in November or December, as ſtorm ſets in, and diſappear in February, as the weather turns mild. The blackbird was once migratory, but for 10 years paſt he remains with us throughout the year. Whether this indicates that our climate is grown colder than it was formerly, I will not pretend to ſay. The number of ſheep may be about 1000; of which about 200 are of the Bakewell breed, the reſt of the old Scots ſheep, ſmall ſized, with ſhort wool, unequal as to its quality, ſome of it being fine, and ſome of it coarſe. The black cattle may be about 800. They

are

are of various kinds; but, in general, they are larger than the old highland breed, that are fit to lie out during the winter. The number of horſes may be about 400, and are of various ſizes.

Population.—The return to Dr Webſter about 40 or 50 years ago, was 1360. In the year 1673, the examinable perſons in the pariſh of Wardlaw, were reckoned by the then incumbent about ſix or ſeven hundred. If Farnua bore the ſame proportion to Wardlaw then as now, both pariſhes might contain 850. About 30 years ago, by a liſt of the late incumbent, the examinable perſons in the united pariſh were about 950. Every year ſince 1773, a new liſt was made by the preſent incumbent; the examinable perſons were never much above 1000, nor below 950, till 4 years ago, when their number increaſed. By an exact ſurvey made in the cloſe of the year 1789, the examinable perſons were 1190, of whom there were 489 males, 701 females, the proportion of males to females being nearly as 5 to 7. Under 9 years of age, not entered on the liſt, were 380, making for the number of ſouls 1571. The reaſons for the increaſe of examinable perſons, I take to be theſe: Firſt, about 4 years ago, ſeveral ſmall farms were thrown into a few large ones; the greater part of thoſe farmers who were diſpoſſeſſed, remained in the pariſh as cottagers, while other perſons were brought in to manage the large farms. Again, ſeveral gentlemen in the pariſh have a taſte for improvements, as planting, ditching, by which they give conſtant employment to a number of labourers, ſo that perſons of that deſcription crowd in from other places. The average of births for the laſt 7 years is nearly 40, of which there are 20 males and 20 females. The males and females are almoſt equally balanced. The whole number of births for the laſt

laſt 7 years ſtood thus: Males 138, females 139. By the liſt of examinable perſons, the proportion of males to females was as 5 to 7. The decreaſe of adult males is owing to their leaving the pariſh. Numbers of young men go to the ſouth of Scotland, as handicraftſmen, or labourers: Several enliſt in the army, and ſome go to the Weſt Indies, while the women remain. The average of deaths may be about 20; but this cannot be ſo exactly aſcertained, as ſeveral from this pariſh are buried at Inverneſs or Kilterlity, and ſome from both theſe pariſhes are buried here. By the regiſter, 30 died in 1783, but then a pleuritic fever cut off a third more than commonly die. In 1790, 30 perſons likewiſe died; but the ſmall-pox, meaſles, and hooping-cough raged at the ſame time. In ſeveral of the intermediate years, not above 10 died. The average of marriages may be about 6.

Proprietors, Tenants, and Rent.—There are 6 proprietors and one feuer, of whom 5 have their occaſional or conſtant reſidence in the pariſh. There are about 60 tenants, of whom 8 pay from L. 30 to L. 60 Sterling rent; the reſt may pay from L. 10 to L. 15 Sterling. Beſides theſe there are cottagers, who pay for ſmall crofts from 5 s. to L. 5. All theſe cottagers are either handicraftſmen or labourers: Frequently one man has three occupations; he manages his croft, works as a labourer in ſummer, or while the weather is good, and as a weaver, tailor, ſhoemaker or carpenter in winter, or when the weather is bad. There may be of this deſcription, labourers without a handicraft, 34; handicraftſmen, 77; male ſervants, 134; female ſervants, 104; houſehold ſervants are included. About 10 years ago cottagers were employed in agriculture, but now hired ſervants. Several houſes have been built within that period,

riod, perhaps 50. The valued rent of the parish is L. 2068, 10 s. Scots. The real rent may be about L. 2000 Sterling. The rent of land varies. Such farms as have been given in lease about 30 years ago, may pay from 7 s. to 10 s. for the acre of arable ground. Farms that have been lately let, pay from 15 s. to 20 s. the acre.

Crops.—The principal crops in the parish are barley and oats; pease is not so common. Lint is sown in small quantities for family use. The common tenants and cottagers raise a great many potatoes in proportion to their acres, depending upon them chiefly for subsistence. The proprietors and gentlemen tenants follow the Norfolk method of husbandry. They sow wheat, turnip, and grass-seeds. They use the English plough, drawn by two horses, without a driver. The farms in the hand of the proprietors and better tenants, are inclosed; the rest of the parish is open. Wheat is sown from the middle of October to the middle of November; oats and pease in the end of March and beginning of April; barley from the end of April to the beginning of June; lint the beginning of May; turnip from the middle of June to the middle of July. The harvest is seldom begun before September; and if the crop is got in about the middle of October, they reckon it in good time. A greater quantity of every species of grain than is necessary for the maintenance of the inhabitants is raised; at the same time, victual gives a high price, and meal is sometimes scarce, because the barley is wholly consumed by the distilleries.

Church, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The church was first built on Wardlaw or Mary's hill in the year 1210. The patron is Fraser of Lovat. The living consists of 5 chalders of victual, half barley, half oatmeal, and L. 50 Sterling of money

money, with 50 merks Scots for communion-elements. The glebe conſiſts of 7 Scots acres. The manſe was built in 1775. The church was begun building in 1790. It is not yet finiſhed. It has been removed about two gunſhots from Mary's hill. There are no diſſenters of any kind within the bounds of this pariſh, except ſix Catholics. There are two ſchools in this pariſh; one of them is a parochial ſchool, the other is planted by the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge. The emoluments of the parochial ſchool are 200 merks Scots of ſalary, one ſhilling the quarter for every ſcholar taught to read; one ſhilling and ſixpence the quarter from every ſcholar taught writing, arithmetic, and Latin. The Society ſchoolmaſter has a ſalary of L. 12. the children of the poor are taught by him *gratis*. At each of theſe ſchools there are from 60 to 80 children. The number of poor on the pariſh roll is 50. The fund to provide for them is not above L. 10, ariſing from the weekly collections, the hire of a mortcloth, and the intereſt of L. 50 due the ſeſſion by bond. The greater number of thoſe on the roll can provide for themſelves in part, by their labour. Few if any on the poors roll beg from door to door, yet the pariſh is infeſted with beggars from other places.

Prices and Wages.—The price of grain and proviſions has advanced conſiderably of late years. Ten ſhillings the boll was reckoned the average price, 40 years ago, for barley and peaſe, for 5 firlots of oats and 9 ſtones of oatmeal. For the laſt 7 years, at an average, barley has ſold at 18 s.; peaſe, oats, and meal at 16 s. Other proviſions as under,

	40 years ago.		At preſent.	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Beef the lb. at an average,	0	1	0	3
Veal,	0	1½	0	4

	40 years ago		At preſent.	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Mutton,	0	1	0	3
Pork,	0	1½	0	3
A lamb fed,	3	0	6	0
A gooſe,	1	0	2	0
A duck,	0	4	0	8
A hen,	0	3	0	6
A chicken for the brander,	0	1	0	4
Butter the ſtone 21 lb.	5	0	12	0
Cheeſe the lb.	2	6	5	0

Farm ſervants hired by the year, receive from L. 4 to L 5, and 6 bolls meal, unleſs they board in the houſe; ſecond claſs of men ſervants receive from L. 3 to L. 4 yearly, and 6 bolls meal. Boys receive from 30 s. to L. 2, and 4 bolls meal for victuals; but generally they have their meat with the houſehold ſervants. Female ſervants for the farm, from L. 1 to L. 2. Labourers hired by the day get 8 d.; by the piece, they commonly make from 10 d. to 1 s. 6 d. From the frugal manner in which they live, a labourer, if ſober and induſtrious, may ſupport himſelf, his wife and 3 or 4 children.

Manners and Morals.—The people of this pariſh, in general, are ſober and induſtrious, free from groſs crimes, tractable and ſubmiſſive. They, as well as the people of the neighbouring pariſhes, have made a greater progreſs in civilization within the laſt 50 years, than for ſeveral centuries before. This is owing, firſt, to the decline of the feudal ſyſtem. Before the year 1745, that ſyſtem had conſiderable influence. Every chief conſidered himſelf as an independent prince, who might commit depredations on his neighbours territories, as avarice or animoſity dictated.

The

The clans, like the ſubjects of independent ſtates, living in the cloſe neighbourhood of each other, were animated by conſtant jealouſy and mutual hatred. They neglected induſtry, becauſe they held the fruits of their labour by a precarious tenure. They made little account of good morals, ſince it could not defend them from their lawleſs neighbours, nor at all times ſecure the favour of their chief. But when the feudal ſyſtem received an irrecoverable blow, by quelling the rebellion, and by the juriſdiction act, the people began to feel the force of the laws of their country, in puniſhing the guilty and defending the innocent. They were excited to induſtry, by the proſpect of enjoying what they acquired. They were taught morality, by the moſt obvious (though not the moſt important) argument, that it afforded the beſt ſecurity to their perſons and property. Another cauſe of this progreſs is the influence of religion. No doubt the ordinances of religion were diſpenſed previous to the year 1745; but it is only ſince that period the people have begun to reſpect them. Before that æra, they conſidered themſelves as a race of warriors, and that religion was beneath their notice, or inconſiſtent with military proweſs; ſentiments carefully inculcated by thoſe who had occaſion for their ſervices. Beſides, religion has been conſiderably aided by literature ſince the æra mentioned. The lower claſs have been more generally taught to read. In learning to read, the principles of Chriſtianity have been inculcated. Much praiſe in this reſpect is, in a ſpecial manner, due to the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge.

Antiquities and Language.—There are remains of two Druidical temples, but they are much defaced. In the moor between Achnagairn and the ferry of Beuly, through which the public road goes to the northern counties, are many

ſmall

ſmall tumuli of earth mixed with ſtones. The tradition is, that ſome of the neighbouring clans having made a ſudden irruption into the country, in the ſpring, when the people were employed at their ploughs; theſe having no time to provide themſelves with arms, unlooſed the oxen, took the yokes in their hands, and with this armour fell upon the enemy with determined fury, ſo that numbers were killed on both ſides. The ſlain were buried in the field, and the tumuli mentioned were raiſed over their graves. The moor from this event has been called *Blarna-cui-ſlich*, that is, "the battle of the wet yoke." The language chiefly ſpoken by the common people is Gaelic; although a great many of them, from their being taught to read Engliſh at ſchool, can tranſact ordinary buſineſs in that tongue. All the names of places are obviouſly derived from the Gaelic.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—By the ſpirited exertions of individuals, and the generous relief afforded by government, oatmeal, which ſold at Inverneſs and in this pariſh the beginning of ſummer 1783, at the enormous price of 30s. the boll, was reduced before the end of ſummer, below 14s. beſides ſupplying the poor *gratis*. How different was the ſituation of this country during the ſcarcity in King William's reign! The people were left to their own exertions; when one crop failed, they had no reſource for ſeed, but to ſow the damaged corn of their own growth. This occaſioned the failure of a ſecond and a third crop. I am informed by a man in this pariſh, that his father told him, that during the ſcarcity mentioned, four families inhabiting a place called Clunes, in Kiltarlity pariſh, on the borders of this pariſh, ſubſiſted for two years on the herbs they could collect in ſummer, and gathered the ſeed of the wild muſtard, with which their fields abounded, and ground it into

meal, ſo as to afford them a ſcanty ſubſiſtence in winter. But the third crop failing, they could ſubſiſt no longer: Accordingly, they deſerted their habitations in one body, and came down to the plain below, where they ſet upa lamentable howling; and having wept till they had no further power, they diſperſed themſelves to beg or ſerve, as they ſhould find a reception, the wife ſeparating from the huſband, the mother from the children.

A diſadvantage much felt in this pariſh, is the ſcarcity of fuel. The common tenants and cottagers depend chiefly on turf, the peat moſſes being almoſt exhauſted. The proprietors and better tenants burn coals from Sunderland or Newcaſtle; but the high price, owing to the duty on this article, puts them beyond the reach of the poor. Many diſadvantages ariſe from the late diſtillery-law. The conſumpt of barley makes the price of grain very high for the poor, confining the ſale of the ſpirits diſtilled to a particular diſtrict, while every pariſh within that diſtrict has the ſame privilege of diſtilling, is in fact confining what is diſtilled within the pariſh to the conſumpt of that pariſh; if ſuch a limitation deſtroys the benefit of any manufacture in a great meaſure, much more ſo of this. The abundance of ſpirits without a market has lowered the price. So that they ſell ſometimes at 9 s. the Scots gallon; an Engliſh pint may be had at 4 d. in the alehouſe. This is too ſtrong a temptation for perſons having the ſmalleſt inclination to drink. Hence, too, alehouſes or dram-houſes, as they ought be called, are multiplied; and each of theſe may be conſidered as ſeminaries of vice and idleneſs. About two years ago, there were 8 alehouſes within this pariſh; but the Juſtices of the Peace, conſcious of their hurtful tendency, ſhut them all up, except two, that are at convenient diſtances upon the public road.

Digging

Digging pits for gravel to mix with dung is an univerſal but pernicious practice in this pariſh. It not only deforms the country, and deſtroys the natural paſture, but renders the land for ever incapable of improvement, where pitted, with little or no benefit to the land on which the gravel is laid. Cutting feal and divot is another hurtful practice, though not peculiar to this pariſh, but it would be extremely oppreſſive in proprietors to prohibit it altogether, without giving the poor a ſubſtitute for building and thatching their houſes.

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NUMBER XV.

PARISH OF INVERARITY.

(COUNTY OF FORFAR.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN WEBSTER.

Situation and Extent.

INVERARITY is in the preſbytery of Forfar, and Synod of Angus and Mearns. It is bounded by the pariſh of Kinnettles on the W.; Murrays on the S.; Carmyllie on the E.; and by Forfar on the N. The pariſh is about 3 miles ſquare.

Agriculture, Rent, Wages, &c.—Here and in the neighbourhood, there is a growing ſpirit for agriculture. Marl is the chief manure. It is brought from the diſtance of 5 miles; and from 40 to 50 bolls are put upon an acre. Its effects are moſt ſenſible and beneficial upon light dry land; and if laid on in a greater quantity, it will operate powerfully, even on a ſoil that has a tendency to be moiſt. For the firſt ſeaſon it does little good; but afterwards its effects will continue for 6 or 7 years. At the end of that time, the marling operation may be renewed, but it is pretended, the quantity of marl ought to be diminiſhed in proportion to the number of times that the field has been marled. The moſt

moſt approved method, is to mix it with earth and dung, about 1 part marl, 1 earth, and 2 dung. This compoſt, by ſpreading it equally, prevents dangerous effects; and alſo cauſes it to *work* ſooner than when marl is laid on by itſelf. What in ſome meaſure may have retarded the progreſs of agriculture here, is the old ſyſtem of bondage and cottagers, which ſtill prevails. This practice has continued, on account of very long leaſes having been formerly given. Of cottagers, there are to the number of 60 families, and the bondage in which they are held by the great farmer, has evidently an effect in rendering them leſs induſtrious; not having the command of their own time, they are brought not to know its value, and from being idlers when paying bondage abroad, they learn to be lazy at home; beſides, as they hold their cottages from year to year, every little improvement they ſhould make, would render them only more dependent on their maſter. As the old leaſes of the great farms expire, theſe cottagers are getting leaſes from the proprietor. From this, and the aboliſhing of perſonal ſervices, it is not doubted but their ſituation will be improved, and the moſt powerful motive be given to excite their induſtry.

There are but few incloſures in this pariſh in proportion to the extent of arable ground. Corn therefore is principally cultivated. Where a field has been under cultivation and incloſed, it may let from 18 s. to 21 s. the acre; where it is otherwiſe, it will not give above 15 s. The valued rent is L. 2987 : 6 : 8 Scots; the real rent about L. 2000 Sterling.

Labourers get a ſhilling a-day without their victuals; farm ſervants have from L. 8 to L. 10 the year, and maid-ſervants from L. 3 to L. 4; and the wages of all of them are ſtill gradually riſing, which ſhews that both manufactures and agriculture are in a thriving condition.

Plantations.

Plantations.—The want of incloſures has had the ſame effect here, as in other places, of retarding the plantation of trees: A circumſtance to be regretted, as woods and hedge-rows add to the beauty, and improve the climate of a country. It gives pleaſure to mention, that the principal proprietor is buſy in planting the whole of his waſte lands, which muſt eventually turn to good account. An acre of land will contain 1500 trees at 6 feet diſtance. In 20 years, each of theſe may ſell for 2 d.; and this amounting to L. 12. 10 s. yields a rent of 10 s. yearly. In planting waſte lands, eſpecially on the declivity of a hill, it would be a good practice to lay two furrows together with the plough; which would give the trees planted between them a greater depth of ſoil; and what is of ſtill greater advantage, the ground would be kept dry, and the trees, on that account, thrive much better.

Birds of Paſſage, &c.—Dotterels, rails and woodcocks, viſit this pariſh. At their firſt appearance dotterels are very tame; but after having been ſhot at they become remarkably wild. They have become much rarer, ſince the country was improved. Woodcocks come here in the end of September, and remain till April; one of them built a neſt in this neighbourhood; but the neſt and eggs were deſtroyed. We have a few grouſe; and which are conſiderably larger in ſize than upon the Grampians.

Population.

Population.—The return to Dr Webſter, about 40 or 50 years ago, was 996. According to the pariſh regiſter, there were at an average——

A. D.	*Marriages.*	*Baptiſms.*	*Burials.*	*Souls.*
1716	14	37		962
1720	9	38		988
1730	18	41	23	947
1740	9	33	26	897
1750	13	31	25	853
1760	11	37	25	931
1770	9	34	23	852
1780	8			860
1789	16			900

There are 169 families, 5½ to each family. Thoſe of 10 years and under, are to thoſe above that age as 2 to 9. There are 1 Roman Catholic; 7 Epiſcopalians; 33 Seceders. The population from 1716 to 1770 is calculated from baptiſms, and burials being multiplied by 26 and 36, and the half of the whole product being taken for the number of ſouls required, that of 1780 and 1789 is aſcertained by actual enumeration. It ſhould thus appear, that the population of the pariſh during the preſent century has been very much the ſame: Many cauſes may have contributed to this; the number of large farms, of ſmall poſſeſſions, and of cottages continued nearly equal; and, though our increaſed wealth ſhould have produced more children, yet having no trading village to keep them at home, thoſe who were not needed for the uſual domeſtic purpoſes, may have gone in ſearch of employment to the many manufacturing towns, with which we are ſurrounded. From the cottagers being in more eaſy circumſtances than formerly, it is probable there may now be a greater proportion of ſouls under 12 years

years of age; but the higher wages of labouring ſervants having led the farmer to do more work with fewer hands, the one circumſtance may counterbalance the other, and therefore may have kept the population of the pariſh almoſt ſtationary.

Poor, &c.—Families who occaſionally need relief from the poors fund, have been gradually diminiſhing, and beggars have become exceedingly leſs numerous; at preſent we have not one belonging to the pariſh; but in 1741 the kirk-ſeſſion gave 32 of them a badge and a licence to beg. Later than that period the heritors were obliged to aſſeſs themſelves for ſupporting the poor; now our weekly collections are more than adequate for that purpoſe. At the interval of every 20 years there was, at an average, collected each Sunday,——

A. D.	*s.*	*d.*
1710	0	4
1730	1	3
1750	2	7
1770	5	3
1790	7	0

Were we therefore to judge of the wealth of the pariſh by this ſtandard, we would conclude, that it had increaſed in the proportion of 1 to 21: This eſtimate would, however, be too high; becauſe as there was formerly a much greater number of parochial beggars, thoſe who had to give more charity in private, might give leſs in public: Yet allowing for this, and comparing what was given at different periods for the relief of families, who may be ſuppoſed to have been in ſimilar circumſtances, the wealth of the pariſh muſt be 8 or 10 times greater than it was in the beginning of the preſent century. Our former poverty, and indeed the poverty of the country in general, is ſtrongly

ly marked by the deſcription given of thoſe who ſolicited charity as beggars:—Stranger gentlemen,—poor gentlemen,—diſtreſſed gentlemen,—are the appellations very frequently given them; and what muſt have been the poverty! what the ſpirit of the times! when, as the record informs us, a gentleman accepted a fourpence, and a young gentleman, recommended by a nobleman, was relieved by a ſixpence!

Antiquities.—The only antiquity worth mentioning is a Roman camp called Taerfauds, in the moor of Lower. It is nearly a rectangular parallelogram, about 300 by 700 yards. There is another camp, Battledykes, about 8 miles to the north of this, in the pariſh of Oathlaw, and, from the traces of a *via militaris* extending between them, it is probable that theſe two encampments were connected together. Neither hiſtory nor tradition give any diſtinct account of either of them. Some antiquaries ſuppoſe them to have been built by Agricola in his 6th campaign, when he obtained his victory over the Caledonians, under Galgacus their chief.

Character of the People.—They are, in general, induſtrious and ſober; pleaſed with their ſituation, but not without ambition to improve it; remarkable for their attendance at church; and improved both in their moral and religious character.

NUMBER XVI.

PARISH OF DUIRINISH,

(ISLE OF SKY, COUNTY OF INVERNESS.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM BETHUNE.

Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.

THE name of this pariſh ſeems to be of foreign origin, as are almoſt all the names of farms, places and pariſhes in the weſtern iſlands. The places whoſe names terminate in Neſs, or Niſh; as Huniſh, Troterniſh, Vaterniſh, &c. ſignify promontories, or head-lands, projecting into the ſea; yet theſe names have no affinity to the Gaelic language, in ſound or meaning; nor any relation, as far as can be known, to the local ſituation or appearance of the places, and may be words of the Pictiſh, or more probably of the Daniſh language, as would appear from a well known cape in Norway being called the *Neſe*. Duiriniſh is ſituated in the county of Inverneſs, in the preſbytery of Sky, and Synod of Glenelg. Its extent from N. to S. W. namely, from the point of Vaterniſh to the point of Idrigil, is 17 computed miles. Its breadth from Lindale to the weſtern ſhore, 13 miles. It is bounded on the E. by the pariſh of Sniſord, on the S. E. by the pariſh of Bracadale, on the N. W. and S. W. by the ſea or Channel, which ſeparates this country from the Long Iſland,

Iſland, and which is about 18 miles broad. The ground about the lochs or branches of the ſea, which run far into the country, deſcends in ſome places with a quick, and in other places with an eaſy ſlope towards the ſea. The promontories or head-lands are rocks of immenſe height; the moors in moſt places are deep and wet. The ſoil in ſome parts is a light black loam, in ſome places of a reddiſh gravelly appearance; and though moſtly thin and ſtony, it is on the whole fertile and productive. The air is very moiſt and foggy; the weſt and ſouthweſt winds bring floods of rain, owing probably to the vicinity of the Atlantic Ocean. The moſt common diſtempers are rheumatiſms, ſciaticks, colds, nervous fevers and dyſenteries, owing, it is preſumed, to the wet and rainy climate. The extent of the ſea-coaſt of this pariſh would meaſure upwards of 60 miles; the ſhore is in general ſtony, and in many parts very high and rocky.

Fiſh, Kelp, Harbours, &c.—The fiſh which frequent the coaſt are herrings, ling, cod, ſkate, mackerel, haddocks, flounders, ſye and cuddies. Herrings and ling are exported; and when ſold in the country, a barrel of ſalt herrings brings about 16s. and ling L.13 the ton. The pariſh exports about 20 tons of ling yearly at an average. There are likewiſe ſome ſeals, otters; and whales of a large ſize are often ſeen in the Channel, between this and the Long Iſland. Every ſpecies of ſea-weed is reckoned moſt excellent manure, though it is thought to burn and waſte the ſoil, when it is not mixed with earth, and it is reckoned more profitable to convert it into kelp, than into manure. There are ſome kelp-ſhores, and the pariſh makes about an hundred tons annually. The tide of flood in this channel runs north and by eaſt, and off the heads flows with great rapidity, perhaps at the rate of 5 miles an hour in ſpring tides.

tides. One light-houſe has been erected lately in the iſland of Scalpa in Harris, which is reckoned of great utility to the numerous ſhipping that frequent this channel, in their voyages to and from the Baltic. The harbours of the pariſh are Loch Arniſord, Loch Bay, Pottech, Dunvigan Loch, and Loch Harloſh. As the coaſt is very bold and high, with a great depth of water, it ſeldom happens, that any veſſel is wrecked upon it. About 30 years ago, a veſſel belonging to Aberdeen, laden with ſtaves, was caſt away upon the coaſt of Ramſaig, in this pariſh, and two of the hands were drowned. The ſurviving part of the crew were treated by the people with the greateſt humanity, and the cargo was preſerved with the utmoſt care, for the benefit of the underwriters. This forbearance, however, may be rather aſcribed to the attention and authority of the gentlemen, than to the humanity of the common people.

Hills.—The moſt remarkable mountains in the pariſh, are the two Hallivails, ſituated within a mile of each other, of an equal height, being about 3 quarters of a mile high, the top of each is a flat or a table land, and, like twins, they exactly reſemble each other; ſo that they are ſuch ſure land-marks, as no ſeaman can miſtake. The hills are all covered with heath, with a few green ſpots here and there.

Population.—The population of this pariſh, and of the whole iſland, is increaſing, and has been increaſing for at leaſt 80 years back. The old people affirm, that they remember lands which lay waſte in ſeveral diſtricts, not only of this pariſh, but in ſeveral parts of the iſland, for want of inhabitants to occupy them. Of late, the inhabitants have multiplied ſo much, that from Auguſt 1771, to October 1790, eight large tranſports have ſailed from this iſland with emigrants, to ſeek ſettlements in America; the

laſt

laſt of theſe tranſports ſailed on the 6th of this month (October 1790) from Loch Bracadale. Theſe 8 ſhips have, at a very moderate computation, carried away from this iſland 2400 ſouls, and L. 24,000 Sterling, ſhip-freights included. From the year 1772 to 1775, 204 males, and 207 females, emigrated from this pariſh to America, excluſive of thoſe who have gone in the two laſt ſhips; yet the population appears to be as great as in 1772. This increaſe of population may be attributed to a more judicious and rational treatment of children and women in child-bed, than was formerly obſerved; and above all, to the inoculation of the ſmall-pox, which has been univerſally practiſed in this iſland for 30 years paſt, and has been the means of preſerving many lives. The number of ſouls in this pariſh at preſent, amounts to fully 3000. The return to Dr Webſter, about 40 years ago, was only 2568. Though there are no extraordinary inſtances of longevity, yet ſeverals in this pariſh arrive at a good old age. There are at preſent two men, one of them 88, the other 95, and two women, one of them 93, and the other 97 years. In every diſtrict of the pariſh, there are ſome weavers, male and female, a few tailors, a blackſmith in every barony, ſome boat-builders and houſe-carpenters. Every farm keeps boats, and the people go a-fiſhing for their own uſe, or when they ſee an appearance of herrings. There are very few bred ſeamen, but all expert rowers, good hardy watermen, and ſkilled in making a boat with ſails. There are 4 ſtudents from this pariſh who attend the Univerſities of Aberdeen. There are 7 eſtabliſhed clergymen in this iſland, viz. 5 on Lord Macdonald's eſtates, and 2 on Colonel Macleod's. All the inhabitants of Sky are Proteſtants, of the eſtabliſhed Church of Scotland, a very few excepted, who are of the Church of England; yet theſe perſons are endued with ſuch liberality of ſentiments, and ſo free from bigotry, that they frequent

frequent the established Church, and communicate at the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Marriages here produce, in general, from 5 to 12 children, and upwards. The cottages are full of inhabitants.

Productions, &c.—The utmost that the whole island can do in the very best seasons, is to serve the inhabitants with meal. In unfavourable seasons they buy large quantities of imported meal. Oats and potatoes are planted in March and April, barley is sown in the beginning of May, and reaped in August. In wet seasons the oats are not cut down till October. The rent of the parish may be about L. 1700 yearly.

Church, Stipend, Poor, &c.—The church was lately repaired. The stipend is L. 50, with L. 10 yearly compensation for manse and glebe. There is no manse in this parish, nor were there ever any manses in Sky, till of late two manses have been built. As there are no markets for provisions in the island, were the ministers confined to a manse and glebe, they could not procure the necessaries of life; therefore they thought it more eligible to possess farms, and to accommodate themselves as to houses in the best manner they could. The Laird of Macleod is patron of the parish.—The number of poor on the list, who are relieved in times of scarcity, is 63. Many of these do not go about for alms, but reside mostly in the house of some relation. There are no other funds for the support of the poor, but the Sunday collections, and the fines of delinquents, so that they are chiefly supported by the charity of the parishioners. In a year of scarcity, however, the session make a shift to buy 20 bolls of meal for their relief. In summer 1773, Government generously sent a cargo of meal to the Western Islands, of which this parish got 44 bolls

bolls and 3 firlots, which was a moſt ſeaſonable relief to the poorer ſort of people.

Price of Proviſions and Labour, &c.—As there are no fleſh-markets, if a perſon is diſpoſed to eat beef, he muſt buy a whole cow; if he would wiſh to have mutton, he muſt buy a ſheep. A cow coſts from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 3, 10 s. a ſheep 6 s. Butter, when it can be procured, from 10 s. to 12 s. cheeſe 4 s. the ſtone weight. Domeſtic men-ſervants yearly wages are from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 3, excluſive of 4 pair of ſhoes to each. A grieve (or overſeer) has from L. 4 to L. 7, beſides his ſhoes. Women-ſervants have from 8 s. to 20 s. beſides 3 pair of ſhoes. When a man-ſervant marries, and engages in ſervice for a year, he has for wages as much ground as he can labour, graſs for 2 milk-cows, a dozen of ſheep and 2 horſes, and 2 days in the week to do his own work, beſides his victuals every day he works to his maſter. Every married labourer in this country has a ſmall portion of land, he raiſes a little flax, and has a few ſheep, ſo that his wife furniſhes him with his whole wearing apparel. Were he to buy yearly, as he would require, a bonnet at 1 s. 6 d. 3½ yards of coarſe cloth for a great coat, at 2 s. 6 d. the yard, 5 yards of the ſame for a jacket, waiſt-coat and 2 pair of breeches, 4 pair of ſhoes at 2 s. 6 d. each, 3 pair of hoſe, and ſo in proportion for his wife and children; alſo 12 bolls of meal for himſelf, wife and children, at 17 s. the boll, ½ barrel of ſalt, at 5 s. ½ ſtone of iron at 2 s. together with ſome other unavoidable little charges, it would be found that the yearly expence of a labourer and his family in the Iſle of Sky, could not be much leſs than L. 20 Sterling.

Antiquities.—There are the remains of 2 Roman Catholic chapels, one in Trumpar in Vaterniſh, and another in Glendale.

dale. There are alſo the ruins of ſeveral towers, reported by tradition to have been built by the Danes. Theſe towers ſeem not to have ever exceeded 20 feet in height. They are circular in their form, and were built in a very ſubſtantial manner, with large ſtones, without any cement. They had an inner wall, very neatly built, with an empty ſpace of about 5 feet in breadth, between the two walls, with openings through the inner wall, into the void ſpace or interval between the two walls. They do not appear to have been ever roofed; but the two walls were joined to each other at the top, by long flag-ſtones laid acroſs between the two walls, and covered with earth. The void ſpaces between the walls, probably were intended for places of ſhelter and repoſe, and for preſerving arms and proviſions from the weather; and as every one of theſe towers is built in ſight of one or more of the ſame, it is natural to think that they were intended for places to make ſignals from by ſmoke and fire, upon an alarm, or the ſight of an enemy, and likewiſe for defence; for as they are all built upon eminences, a few men could defend one of them againſt a thouſand, before the invention of cannon and gunpowder. There are two tombs in the pariſh. In one of them, about 70 years ſince, an urn was found, containing ſome aſhes.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—As to the ſize of the people, they are of a low ſtature, the men in general from 5 feet 4 inches, to 5 feet 8. There are very few men who are 6 feet high; they are however active and lively. The common people of Sky are bleſſed with excellent parts; a liberal ſhare of ſtrong natural ſenſe, and great acuteneſs of underſtanding. They are peaceable and gentle in their diſpoſitions, and are very induſtrious when they work for themſelves; but when they work for hire or wages, they

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are inclined to be lazy and indifferent; they are rather too fond of changes and emigrations; and though they are brave and very loyal, they are averſe to the naval and military ſervices, and are extremely diſguſted with the idea of being preſſed.—The language commonly ſpoken is Gaelic.—There are in this pariſh, 2 veſſels with decks, one of 80 tons, the other of 30 tons burden.—Some indications of coal have lately been diſcovered.—In Auguſt 1785, two families were baniſhed from this country for cow-ſtealing.

NUMBER XVII.

PARISH OF KIRKINNER,

(COUNTY OF WIGTON.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN GRAHAM.

Situation, Surface, Soil, Air, &c.

A Neighbouring pariſh, Kircowan, is ſaid anciently to have made one pariſh with Kirkinner; and that of Longcaſtle, now forming the S. W. corner of this pariſh, has, in later times, been united to it. Kirkinner, from S. E. to N. W. is about 9 Scotch miles, and about 8 from N. E. to S. W.; from E. to W. about 6 miles; and from N. to S. not quite 4. On the N. and N. W. it is bounded by Wigton, Penningham, and Kircowan; by Mochrum, on the W.; by Glaſſerton, on the S. W.; and by Sorbie, on the S.; on the E. and N. E. by the Frith of Cree, between this pariſh and Kirkmabreck, in the ſtewartry of Galloway. The appearance of the country is hilly, but no where mountainous. Its ſoil is generally thin and light, the courſe land of Baldern excepted, which is a deep and rich clay, lying along the frith of Cree, which, ſo far as this pariſh goes, has a very flat clay or ſleetchy ſhore, with the hills or riſing grounds, generally at the diſtance of a mile, or a little more from the tide. This carſe ground excepted, and about half a mile up from it, the pariſh does not

not appear to have been naturally very fertile. But, by the benefit of ſea-ſhells, lime, and marl, the ſoil has been much improved, and ſtill goes on improving. In the carſe of Baldern, lies an abundant treaſure of ſea-ſhells, which the proprietor however reſerves for the uſe of his own eſtate, in this and two neighbouring pariſhes. For the reſt of the pariſh, they are brought from the other ſide of the Frith, and landed at Wigton, for 1 s. 6 d. or 1 s. 8 d. the ton. But where the land-carriage comes to exceed 3, or at utmoſt 4 miles, our farmers prefer lime imported in ſhells, from Whitehaven, or its neighbourhood. In ſome places marl has been found, but it begins to be exhauſted. Our marl is of the ſhell kind, found in bogs or moſs, but never, I think, in moſſes of great extent. It ſeems to be agreed that the ſubſtance of the marl, is the ſhells of the freſh water wilk. I have ſeen a thin ſtratum of it, begin to form at the bottom of ponds of ſtanding water. Our hills, in their natural ſtate, were covered with furze and broom; but, from the application of the above manures, the furze and broom begin to diſappear; though both are ſtill troubleſome to the farmer. The air is rather dry than moiſt, compared with that of the more northerly counties of the weſt of Scotland, and deſerves the character of healthy. I have not obſerved any prevalent diſtempers. There is only one mineral ſpring, and I am well aſſured it has been of uſe to remove complaints of the ſtomach, and frequently proved a cure for the ague. We have many ſprings of ſoft and light water, which I believe contribute much to the health of the inhabitants.

The river of Bladnoch is the boundary between this pariſh and Wigton, and between this pariſh and Penningham. It produces very good ſalmon, but not in great quantities, from 3 d. to 4 d. the pound, and none is exported. The tide goes up this river but a little way above the

the town of Wigton. Between this pariſh Sorbie and Glaſſerton, on the S. W. lies the lake or loch of Dowalton, about 2 miles long, by 1½ broad, containing pike and herring; and a little iſland on the Kirkinner ſide of it, about 30 acres arable. I wiſh I could ſee it ſtocked with Shetland ſheep. The extent of waſte ground along the frith of Cree, is about 3 miles. A few ſmall cod and haddocks, ſkate and ſoals, are taken there, and ſold in the market of Wigton, from 1 d. to 1½ d. a pound. None exported. The hills were formerly covered with furze or broom, now with good crops or paſture. Our moſt valuable ſtone is gray whinſtone, uſed in building, principally for doors, corners, and windows.

Population, &c.—With reſpect to the ancient population, little is known. It is to be obſerved, however, that there have been many houſes, where now there are none, and probably the tenements of land, as they were called, were ſmaller, and more numerous; conſequently this pariſh, wherein, to this day, there is not a village, might perhaps be more populous than it now is, at leaſt than it was 10 or 12 years ago. From the regiſter of births, for 10 years down, from 1695 incluſive, the average was between 23 and 24; for the 10 following years, it is between 28 and 29. After that, the regiſter begins to have been ill kept, down to the 1734; of which year, and the five following, the average of births is not quite 24. From that time, down to the year 1780, the regiſter has been ſo ill kept, that it cannot be depended on. The annual average of births ſince that year, appears to be very nearly 29. According to Dr Webſter's returns, the number was 792. The preſent population is 1152; males, 563; females, 589. No regiſter of deaths has ever been kept. But from all

all information that can be obtained, the annual average appears not to exceed 14; ſo that we are manifeſtly a nurſery, as I ſuppoſe all other country pariſhes are, for cities and great towns, whoſe induſtry hath hitherto been ſo much cheriſhed, even at the expence, ſometimes, of our radical and more valuable induſtry on the ſoil, and the firſt care of its productions, ſo little underſtood or valued by the luxurious citizens who live by them. But a wiſer policy begins now, I think, to take place, or at leaſt to be meditated. Marriages, in 11 years, have been 77. But frequently one only of the parties has reſided in the pariſh. There is one woman at preſent alive in this pariſh, ſaid to be ſeveral years above 100, and another known to be 98. The number of farmers, who rent lands in tillage, is about 50. There are, beſides theſe, a conſiderable number who pay rent for ſmall ſpots of land, either immediately to the proprietors, or by ſubtacks to principal tenants, but who depend upon their induſtry as day-labourers, or as handicraftſmen, for their ſubſiſtence. The families of this claſs are about 20. About 2000 acres of our beſt land, is in paſture. Each conſiderable farmer, beſides ſervants who live in his houſe, has generally a married ſervant, to whom he gives a houſe, a ſmall garden, and a cow's graſs, with ſtraw for her fodder in the winter, and allows him to plant, in ground prepared and dunged for his own uſe, 3 or 4 buſhels of potatoes; and beſides other indulgencies, L. 4 or L. 5 in money. The money-wages, and other articles allowed to ſuch a ſervant annually, may be eſtimated between L. 12 and L. 14.

The number of families is 238. Upwards of 30 of theſe have come into the pariſh within theſe 12 years laſt paſt, owing to the diviſion of one large farm into 13 or 14 ſmaller poſſeſſions, and to ſeveral ſubtacks on another farm, which had long lain in paſture; alſo to ſeveral ſmall leaſes

of

of ground for houſes and gardens, with ſometimes from 12 to 20 acres, for tillage and paſture. So that the increaſe of inhabitants in that time, ſeems to be nearly 200. There are 10 weavers, 7 tailors, 7 carpenters, 3 ſhoemakers, 10 houſehold ſervants. Beſides the married ſervants above mentioned, I reckon one male and two female ſervants for each of the 50 farmers, and a boy between 12 and 16 years of age. The other 20, who poſſeſs very ſmall farms, have the work of the farm chiefly performed by themſelves and their children. There are Iriſh families about 27, and 9 or 10 ſingle men, employed as day-labourers. Not one half of the inhabitants, above the age of 20 years, have been born in the pariſh. The people are not now, in any ſenſe, as formerly, *adſciti glebæ*. As tacks of land are commonly for 19 years, that period changes a great proportion of the inhabitants. This has of late been remarkably the caſe in this pariſh and neighbourhood; becauſe the rents of lands have been greatly raiſed, and it is obſerved that tenants ſeldom agree to a great increaſe of rent, for a farm they have formerly occupied. There are 10 heritors, 2 of whom only reſide; one writer; neither phyſician, ſurgeon, nor apothecary. There are between 90 and 100 Seceders, 6 or 7 Roman Catholics from Ireland, and the reſt of the inhabitants of the Eſtabliſhed Church. There are not quite five inhabitants to a houſe.

Between 40 and 50 perſons emigrated from this pariſh to America, in the year 1775, with a view to ſettle there as planters or artiſans.

Agriculture, &c.—The ſummer ſtock of black cattle, which is the chief article, without reckoning calves, may may be about 2700. They are of a very good kind generally, but rather remarkable for ſhapes and beef, than for milk. Horſes, of all ages, about 250. No conſiderable

ſtocks

ſtocks of ſheep are in the pariſh. The farmers, however, generally keep as many as ſupply them with wool and mutton for their families. About a third of the arable land is commonly in crop, where the land is leaſed for tillage. The farmers, after marling or lining grounds that have been well reſted, take a crop, ſometimes two, of barley or bear, then a crop or two of oats, and with the third or fourth crop lay down with rye graſs and clover; but in general only for paſture. The dung is either laid upon their lee-lands, before they break them up, or is uſed for raiſing potatoes, which are now generally horſe hoed, unleſs where new ground is to be taken in by planting them in lazy beds. Conſiderable quantities are exported to Whitehaven, Liverpool, and ſometimes even to London. Very few of our farmers raiſe turnips or cabbages; the reaſon probably is our diſtance from any conſiderable market for ſtall-fed cattle. Hardly any wheat is ſown in this pariſh. There is either in the ſoil or in the climate, more probably in the latter, ſomething unfriendly to that grain. Even when tried by our beſt farmers, it has always proved of a very inferior quality. It often ſmuts, and our harveſt is generally too rainy to ſave it well. The pariſh does much more than ſupply itſelf with proviſions. Beſides what it ſends to the neighbouring markets of Wigton and Newtonſtewart, it exports conſiderably, chiefly to Whitehaven and Liverpool, but ſometimes alſo to Clyde, barley, bear and oats; and ſends yearly to England, from 30 to 35 ſcore of bullocks to the St Faith's and Hampton markets. Theſe bullocks are not all reared in the pariſh, but are all grazed in it for a year or 6 months, before they are driven to England. The time of ſowing oats generally commenceth about the 10th March, and that of reaping about the 10th Auguſt. No grounds lie waſte or in common. We have no natural wood, and not much plantation,

tion, unless within these last 15 or 20 years. There is some shell-marl, but our marl-pits are nearly exhausted. There is one farm in the parish employs 3 ploughs, 5 or 6 more employ 2 on each. The greater part of the rest, each of them one. Some few small farmers join 2 or 3 together, to make up horses for a plough, so that in all there are about 55 ploughs employed. We have three kinds of ploughs in use: The Scotch plough made lighter than formerly; the Carlisle plough, and the chain-plough. We have no waggons, but two carts may be reckoned to each plough. The land rent of the parish may be about L. 5300. There has not been much change in landed property for 30 years back.

Church, Stipend, Poor, &c.—The church is old, and bears no date. The manse was built in 1731. The stipend is L. 75; the glebe about 9 acres of very bad soil. The Crown and Mr Agnew of Shuchane are vice patrons. Sir William Maxwell of Monreith claims likewise a *vice*. The poor on the roll are 17. Some others receive occasional assistance. The funds for their relief are chiefly collections, and voluntary donations of the heritors. There is only L. 20 Sterling of fund belonging to the poor of this parish, L. 10 of which was a legacy, and the other L. 10 saved in good times. There is no market within the parish. Wigton is the nearest market town.

Prices, Wages, &c.—An able labourer's day's wages are 1 s. masons and carpenters 1 s. 6 d. tailors 1 s. The fuel commonly made use of is peat, from moss within the parish, at 3 d. the sack of 8 bushels in the moss, the carriage in proportion to the distance. We have no coal but by water-carriage, and paying over and above a very hard duty. The income of servants in husbandry may be from

L. 12

L. 12 to L. 14, houſe, garden, &c. included, together with any little thing their wives can add to it, which in this part of the kingdom is really a ſmall matter, as there are no manufacturers eſtabliſhed in the neighbourhood. The wages of male-ſervants in the farmer's family are from L. 7 to L. 7, 10s. a-year, of female-ſervants from L. 2, 10s. to L. 3. Such ſervants have it in their power to ſave a little money, which, however, the love of finery and of fairs often prevents.

Antiquities.—The veſtiges of two ancient camps are obſervable, one of them diſtinct enough. Both are circular, therefore not Roman; but there is no tradition concerning them. There have been ſome ancient coins found at different times, turned up by the plough or the ſpade, in a farm called Burneſs, belonging to the Earl of Selkirk. In a farm of Sir William Maxwell's, a large cairn of ſtones being removed to build fences, a collection of human bones, half burnt, were found ſome years ago, in an oblong ſpace, formed with ſtones ſet on edge, and covered with a flat ſtone above, without any inſcription. In ſummer 1789, there was diſcovered an urn, and ſome bones, bearing alſo marks of being partly conſumed with fire. There were in the place, as they deſcribe it, two cavities, one oblong; in which was an earthen urn, the other leſſer and ſquare, in which were the bones.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—Our principal object is agriculture. Nothing is manufactured for any diſtant market. The people are generally prudent and œconomical, yet humane and generous to the extent of their ability. On the whole, we enjoy a reaſonable degree of the comforts and advantages of ſociety, and the body of the people do not betray any diſcontentment with their ſituation and circum-

ſtances. Yet it is unqueſtionable, that the comforts of the labouring poor, and even of thoſe immediately above them, are diminiſhed by the increaſing weight of taxes; particularly by that upon malt, of which they are not inſenſible, though they ſubmit to it, as to an evil they cannot remedy. In the courſe of the few years I have been among them, many have found it neceſſary, from the high price of malt, to give up the uſe of malt liquor, even in the winter ſeaſon, when milk is not to be had. Statefmen have no opportunity to obſerve ſuch things; but, perhaps, they are not unworthy of their attention. It were much to be wiſhed, that they who labour the ſoil, could be allowed to taſte a little more of its fruits than what is abſolutely neceſſary for a mere ſubſiſtence. Our hired ſervants enjoy the plenty of their maſter's family; but it is our poor houſeholders of the labouring claſs I would (if I could) plead for. They merit every thing of their country. While they toil for the preſent generation, they rear, nurſe and educate labourers, artiſans and defenders for the ſucceeding; and this at the expence of hard drudgery, even to the laſt ſtage of exiſtence, with few rewards but thoſe of family-affections, when they are ſo happy as to enjoy them. It is not thus I preach to them, becauſe I would neither excite nor foſter diſcontent in their breaſts; but it is thus, methinks, that the miniſters of a benevolent religion ſhould preach to ſenators and to ſtateſmen.

Are there means by which the condition of the people could be ameliorated? is the moſt amiable of the Statiſtical Queries. I hope there are, though I may not be well qualified to point them out. The introduction of the coarſe woollen manufacture is that which ſhould ſeem to bid the faireſt for the better providing of poor families. Small attempts of this kind have been made, but hitherto have always ſoon failed. It muſt ever be difficult to introduce

manufacturers

manufacturers in a ſituation ſuch as ours, where our new eſtabliſhments muſt rival old ones in neighbouring diſtricts. But, perhaps, the greateſt barrier againſt houſehold induſtry and manufacture among us, is the ſcarcity of fuel in many parts of the country. A human being pinched with cold, when confined within doors, is always an inactive being. The day-light, during the winter, is ſpent by many of the women and children in gathering *elding*, as they call it, that is, ſticks, furze, or broom, for fuel, and the evening in warming their ſhivering limbs before the ſcanty fire which this produces. Could our Legiſlators be conducted through this pariſh in the winter months; could the Lords and Commons, during the Chriſtmas receſs, viſit the cottages of the poor through theſe parts of the united kingdom, where nature hath refuſed coal, and *their* laws have more than doubled the price of it, this would be Shakeſpeare's "wholeſome phyſic;" and would, more than any thing elſe, quicken their invention to find ways and means of ſupplying the place of the worſt of taxes.

NUM-

NUMBER XVIII.

PARISH OF RATTRAY,

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES SMITH.

Name, Situation, Village, Soil, &c.

THE parish of Rattray is said to have taken its name from the ancient family of Rattray; it is about 4 miles long, from S. to N.; near 2 miles, from E. to W.; lying in the presbytery of Dunkeld, and Synod of Perth and Stirling: Bounded on the W. and S. by the water of Cricht, which separates it from the parish of Blairgourie; on the E. and N. by the parish of Benderley. Easter Bleaton, which belongs to the parish of Rattray, lies at 7 miles distance from it. Rattray is a village containing nearly 200 persons, who are manufacturers of coarse brown linen cloth. The situation is pleasant; a fine southern exposure above the river Cricht. The soil, sharp and dry, produces good oats and grass, with some wheat, the culture of which last has been but lately introduced. The lower part of the parish is mostly arable; the higher, partly arable, partly pasture. The land rent is about L. 1600. The inhabitants of the village are sober and diligent. There are 3 alehouses in it; but the morals of the inhabitants (a few

few individuals excepted) are not affected by them. As the air is pure, and the ſoil dry, the inhabitants are healthy; no epidemical diſtemper is known.

Population.—The number of inhabitants, according to Dr Webſter, was 751. At preſent, 500; which is conſiderably leſs than when I knew the pariſh in 1756. There were then many more ſmall tenants than there is now. The ground was let out in ſmall farms or pendicles, and many who had theſe, were weavers; but of late, ſome of the proprietors have let their ground in larger farms, and many of theſe ſmall tenants have been removed. The annual number of marriages, is 10; baptiſms, 20; and deaths, 20. In the pariſh are upwards of 42 weavers, 22 of them in the village; 16 feuers. In the village 6 tailors, 5 ſhoemakers, 4 wrights, 2 ſmiths, 2 maſons, 3 flax-dreſſers, about 60 Seceders, 3 lint mills for dreſſing flax, a conſiderable quantity of which is raiſed, (one of theſe mills is ſoon to be turned into a mill for ſpinning cotton), 3 bleachfields, 2 diſtilleries.

Church, Stipend, School, &c.—The church and manſe are old, and not in good repair. The glebe nearly 6 acres. The ſtipend L. 65. Earl of Kinnoul, patron. There are 5 heritors. The ſalary of the ſchoolmaſter is L. 8, 6 s. 8 d. and the perquiſites amount nearly to the ſame ſum; the number of ſcholars about 40.

Ruins.—To the S. E. of the village, there is a riſing ground, known by the name of the Caſtle Hill, upon which the veſtiges of a very large building are to be ſeen, which was called the Caſtle of Rattray, and was the reſidence of the family of Rattray, of great antiquity, according to the account given of it in the Baronage of Scotland.

About

About 2 miles N. of the village, is Craighall, which almoſt exceeds deſcription. The houſe ſtands upon the point of a rock, above the river Cricht, at leaſt 100 feet in height. It was a place of ſtrength. The river, and that high rock, defended it upon the N. and W. ſide. There is no way to it, but from the S. There are round towers at each ſide of the houſe, and the veſtiges of a ditch. Above the river, S. E. from the village, in a beautiful ſituation, is a Druidical temple, much defaced, and many of the ſtones carried off. The farm upon which it has been built, is called Standing Stones.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There is at a little diſtance from Rattray, a caſcade or fall of water, about 10 feet high, over a rugged rock, which forms a pool below, where ſalmon are caught. It goes by the name of the Keith Fiſhing, and rents at L. 30 a year. The mode of fiſhing is curious: They make what they call a *drimuck*, reſembling thin wrought mortar, which they throw into the pool, to diſturb the clearneſs of the water. The fiſhers ſtand upon the point of the rock, with long poles, and nets upon the end of them, with which they rake the pool, and take up the fiſh. Sportſmen look upon the water of Cricht, as one of the fineſt rivers for rod-fiſhing, both for trout and ſalmon.—The moſſes are moſtly exhauſted, which renders fuel expenſive. Coals, from Dundee and Perth, are the principal fuel made uſe of here, which takes up much time, as the carriage is both long and expenſive.

NUM-

NUMBER XIX.

PARISH OF ARDCLACH,

(COUNTY OF NAIRNE.)

By the Rev. Mr DONALD MITCHELL.

Name, Situation, River, Surface, &c.

THE name Ardclach is Gaelic, and ſignifies 'a ſtony 'high ground.' The pariſh is ſituated in the extremity of the county of Nairne, and lies S. E. of the town of Nairne, in the preſbytery of Nairne, and Synod of Moray. It is bounded by Auldearn, Nairne, Calder, Moy, Duthel and Edinkelly, and reckoned about 10 or 12 miles long, and between 7 and 8 broad, divided by Findhorn river, which is not navigable; neither is there a poſſibility of rendering it ſo. During the ſummer months, ſome ſalmon paſs up from the ſea, ſeveral miles above Ardclach, in this water. No other kind of fiſh, but trout, is to be found in it. This river is rapid, and frequently impaſſable every where, excepting at Dulcy bridge, on the highland road leading from Fort George to Edinburgh. There are two boats on this water within the pariſh, and one on the poſt road; but owing either to the miſmanagement of the boatmen, or temerity of the people, many lives are loſt. During the incumbency of the preſent miniſter,

niſter, no leſs than 23 perſons have been loſt between Dulcy bridge and the poſt-road. The loſs of lives from this cauſe claims attention; and the only method that can be pointed out, to prevent it, is to erect a bridge between the two boats, which would render the communication both ſafe and eaſy. This pariſh is a hilly mountainous diſtrict, covered with heath, and furniſhes little of any other kind of paſture. There is much wood in it, conſiſting of firs, birch, and what is called weeping birch, alder, hazel, aſh and ſome oaks. The birch, alder and aſh, are manufactured for labouring utenſils. The woods and hills abound with moor-fowl, wood-cock, partrides, hares, foxes and ſome deer. The otter and wild cat are frequently ſeen on the water's ſide.

Agriculture, &c.—The quantity of grain produced, generally ſerves the people; but in the years 1782 and 1783, they felt the effects of theſe ſeaſons of ſcarcity; however, none periſhed from want. The principal crops are black and white oats, Scotch bear, rye and potatoes. The ſoil ſeems to be unfit for any other kinds, being ſhallow and thin, covered with ſtone, with a hard gravelly bottom. There is ſeldom above the third return, and the crop is much expoſed to froſt. It is ſuppoſed lime might improve the ſoil; but the tenants are in general ſo poor, that they cannot afford the expence of it. Attempts have been made to diſcover limeſtone within the pariſh, without ſucceſs. The method of labouring ſeems to have undergone little alteration for centuries back. The farmers uſe the ſmall Scotch plough, drawn by 4 or 6 black cattle, and 2 ſmall horſes, or by 4 horſes and 4 black cattle. From the moſt accurate accounts, there are about 300 horſes, 1000 black cattle, and 2000 ſheep, of the ſmall Scotch breed; a larger kind of thoſe laſt have been tried, but it is generally thought a

mixed

mixed breed anſwer beſt.—The rental produced before the Court of Teinds, in a proceſs of augmentation in the year 1786, was 283 bolls victual, and L. 543 : 8 : 5 in money. Since that period, there has been an increaſe of rent in ſeveral parts of the pariſh, and the heritors propoſe giving leaſes in general for 19 years. The ſole dependence of the tenants is on their cattle. From their want of leaſes, as well as the barrenneſs of the ſoil, they found it their intereſt to rear as many black cattle as they poſſibly could. It is ſuppoſed there are about 2000 acres of arable land, and 4000 acres conſiſting of moſs and moor, a very ſmall part of which ſeems to be improvable for corn-lands.

Manufactures.—The principal manufactures are plaiden, which is reckoned the beſt in the country, and coarſe tartan, with a kind of broad cloth and duffle. Within theſe 5 years wool has ſold at 18s. the ſtone. Attempts have been made to raiſe flax, without ſucceſs. There are no leſs than 5 licenſed diſtilleries, which are ſupplied with barley and malt from the low country. Their licenſes are below L. 40. It might be thought that the diſtilling of ſo much whiſky, would be attended with the worſt of conſequences to the morals of the people; but this has not proved to be the caſe. As this pariſh abounds with moſs for peats, and moſs-fir, a conſiderable number were in uſe of making whiſky in a ſmuggling way, and ſo had an opportunity of drinking more than was proper for them; but ſince the eſtabliſhment of licenſed diſtilleries, this practice has been checked, and the people are become more ſober than formerly. There is no inn within the pariſh, but one at Dulcy bridge, on the highland road to Edinburgh.

Prices and Wages.—The neareſt markets for butcher-meat are Forres and Nairne, about 12 miles diſtant from

this place, and meat of all kinds is commonly ſold there at 3 d. and ſometimes 4 d. the pound. Fowls are ſold within the pariſh at 6 d. the loweſt, and eggs at 2 d. the dozen. The wages of domeſtic men-ſervants are L. 5 and L. 6 in the year, of women-ſervants L. 1, 16 s. and L. 2. Day-labourers have 8 d. a-day, with their victuals; and till of late they were ſatisfied with 6 d.

Population, &c.—The air appears to be healthy. Many ſtill alive are paſt 70, and ſome paſt 80 years of age; and it is ſaid there have been inſtances of a few arriving at 100. From the liſt given to Dr Webſter, the number of ſouls then was 1163, in 1781 it was 1167, at preſent 1186. The proportion of males to females is as 18 to 20. There are 4 heritors, none of whom reſide. No Diſſenters. Many perſons emigrated from the pariſh a ſhort time before the American war. There are no uninhabited houſes; the houſes in general are built of feal, and of ſome ſtones in the foundation. As the people have ſeveral burying places without the pariſh, deaths cannot be exactly aſcertained; but for ſome years back, it is believed they have not exceeded 24 in the courſe of the year, and births are between 30 and 40. St Anthony's fire is a diſeaſe peculiar to the people of this place, both young and old. The ſmall pox is frequently fatal here as in other places, and has been remarkably ſo this ſeaſon, to children and ſome advanced in years. The moſt effectual way to remove their prejudices againſt inoculation, would be for the heritors to defray the expence for a limited period.

Church, Stipend, Poor, School, &c.—The church is ſaid to have been built in 1626, and was rebuilt about 30 years ago. The manſe was built in 1744. The ſtipend is L. 55 : 16 : 9 Sterling, and 31 bolls, 3 firlots, 3 pecks oatmeal.

meal. The glebe is between 4 and 5 acres arable, with little graſs. Miſs Brodie of Lethen has the right of patronage.—There is no fund for the poor, excepting the weekly collections, which amount to about L. 3 or L. 4 yearly. The number of poor on the roll is 35, though many more might be added. This ſum, joined to the collections made when the Sacrament is diſpenſed, furniſh but a ſcanty allowance. The ordinary method by which the poor in this country procure a ſubſiſtence is by begging.—The ſalary of the pariſh ſchool is L. 10 Sterling, and the number of ſcholars in winter is about 40. There is beſides a Society ſchool in a diſtant part of the pariſh, for reading and writing, where the number of children this winter have been upwards of 40, and another called a Spinning-ſchool, to which Miſs Brodie of Lethen pays about half the ſalary, the reſt is paid by the Society, making in all L. 10 Sterling. Miſs Brodie likewiſe gives the perſons who have charge of this ſchool fuel *gratis*.

NUM-

NUMBER XX.

PARISH OF UDNY,

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN ROSE.

Situation, Surface, Soil, and Minerals.

THE parish of Udny was an erection from the neighbouring parishes of Logie Buchan, Ellon, Tarves, and Foveran, in the end of the 16th, or beginning of the 17th century. One estate pays stipend to the minister of Logie Buchan, and five estates to the minister of Ellon; a full evidence that these estates were taken off these two parishes. It is situated in the county and Synod of Aberdeen, and presbytery of Ellon. In extent 5 computed miles square. It is bounded on the N. and N. W. by the parish of

of Tarves; on the W. by Bourtie; on the S. W. by Kiethhall; on the S. by Newmacher; on the S. E. by Belhelvie; on the E. by Foveran; on the N. E. by Logie Buchan and Ellon. The general appearance of the country is pretty flat, with ſmall eminences or little hills, covered with ſhort graſs. The ſoil is in general a deep loam, with a conſiderable proportion of wet ground, partly on a clay bottom. There are ſmall ſtreams of water in the valleys, from which the lands riſe gently on each ſide, and are tolerably fertile. The air is healthy. Agues are ſcarcely known. There are quarries of granite for building, and abundance of ſtones in the fields. At Pitmedden there is a limeſtone quarry, which was formerly wrought, but now diſcontinued, on account of water breaking in upon it. Upon the Mains of Udny, is another. The lime is ſold at 1 s. 4½ d. the boll ſlacked lime, conſiſting of 4 firlots, 32 Stirling pints in each. The demand for this lime, will be principally from the diſtrict of Garioch, where they have no lime-quarries. The Engliſh ſhell-lime ſold at Newburgh at 2 s. 8 d. the boll, yielding 3 bolls ſlacked, is found by the farmers here to be much cheaper.

Population.—The numbers of the people, according to Dr Webſter, were 1322. The amount of the preſent population, in January 1791, is 1137 ſouls; of whom, 571 males, 566 females.

Births,

Births, Marriages, and Burials, for the laſt five years.

	Births.			Marriages.	Burials.	
Years.	Males.	Females.	Sum.		Pariſhioners.	Strangers
1786	11	7	18	6	11	20
1787	13	13	26	6	7	9
1788	8	12	20	6	15	13
1789	7	7	14	15	10	17
1790	14	11	25	6	17	19
	53	50	103	39	60	78
	Average, 20.			Aver. 8.	Average, 12.	

By the above liſt, the annual average of births, is 20. But as parents ſometimes neglect the regiſtrating their childrens names, it may be called 22.

Probably 3 more may be added to the average of burials, on account of ſome pariſhioners here being buried in different church-yards; ſo that the annual average of deaths, of pariſhioners, is 15.

The number of ſouls under 10 years of age, is about 202; from 70 to 80, about 23; from 80 to 90, 5. 986 are of the Eſtabliſhed Church; 107 Epiſcopalians; 35 Seceders; 4 Quakers; and 5 Roman Catholics. Number of inhabited houſes, 259; about 4½ perſons to each. No towns nor villages. There are 11 heritors, 2 of whom only reſide; 9 ſhoemakers, 10 ſmiths, 4 tailors, 7 wrights, 4 weavers, 2 maſons, 1 ſlater, who are employed in working for the inhabitants of the pariſh, have crofts of land, and are conſequently in part occupied in huſbandry. The other inhabitants are farmers, and their ſubtenants. The population ſeems to be leſs than it was ſome years ago. In 1768, there were about 1116, above 7 years of age; in 1780,

1780, 1034; in January 1791, only 900. As peats and turf are the uſual fuel, I aſcribe this diminution to the materials becoming ſcarcer; from which ſeveral of the ſubtenants have removed to the neighbouring pariſhes, and particularly to Aberdeen, where the different manufactures eſtabliſhed there, afford them occupation. The proportion of annual births, taking the average of 5 years to the whole population, January 1791 is as 1 to 52 nearly; of annual marriages, as 1 to 142; of annual deaths, as 1 to 76. In autumn 1790, a putrid ulcerous ſore throat, in this and ſome neighbouring pariſhes, proved fatal to many, as appears by the above liſt of burials for that year.

Agriculture, &c.—The late proprietor of the lands of Udny, who was one of the Commiſſioners of Exciſe, was perhaps the firſt gentleman in this part of the country, who raiſed abundant crops of red clover and turnips upon his fields. His farm here, of above 400 acres, he improved at a very conſiderable expence. From 200 to 250 acres are incloſed by a neat ſtone fence, two rows of elms or beeches, and a hawthorn hedge. He reared riding horſes of an excellent breed, and cattle of a much larger ſize than ſuch as were in this country formerly. Ten or twelve cattle were uſually fattened by the turnips, and ſold for the Aberdeen market yearly.—The reſiding heritors occupy part of their own grounds, on which they are carrying on improvements. One of them has a ſmall farm in excellent order, producing abundant crops of grain, ſown graſs, and turnips of an excellent ſort, and early. Another heritor, who occaſionally reſides, has improved his eſtate at a conſiderable expence. It is now incloſed by ſtone fences, and produces abundant crops of grain, and large quantities of hay. The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 5831 Scots; the real rent, about L. 2100 or L. 2200 Sterling,

Sterling, partly paid in victual, partly in money. Infield land, in ſmall parcels, lets at L. 1 the boll's ſowing; meadow, at 7s. or 8s.; outfield, from 2s. to 4s.; but in large farms, the rent is not near ſo high. The lands are in general unincloſed. Property, in land, has not ſhifted much for ſome time. Thirty years purchaſe, when the eſtate is low rented, is the common price. Barley, oats, peaſe, turnips, potatoes, clover and rye graſs, with ſmall quantities of lint, are the productions of the pariſh. There are very few trees. At Knapornay, and upon the Mains of Udny, are ſome incloſures of Scotch fir, fit for uſe. At Udny, are aſhes, elms, beeches, and planes, of conſiderable ſize. Thoſe few proprietors who reſide in the pariſh, and 12 or 13 of the farmers, have fields of ſown graſs and turnips. They purchaſe lime for their grounds, and have a proper rotation of crops; but among all the others, the old mode of farming prevails, *viz.* Each year they manure with the dung of their cattle one third of what is called infield ground, in which bear is ſown; then follow two ſucceſſive crops of oats, by which means the ground is never cleaned of weeds. They fold their cattle on the outfields, and take 3 or 4 ſucceſſive crops of oats. The great produce of the pariſh is oats, made into meal by the farmers; part of it is paid in rent to the proprietor of the land, and the remainder ſold at Aberdeen. Much more grain is produced in the pariſh than is annually conſumed in it. The farms are univerſally thirled to a mill, and obliged to pay, ſome the 11th or 12th, many the 16th or 20th part of the produce to the tackſman of the mill, whether the corns are carried to the mill or not.—Formerly there were 80 ploughs in the pariſh. Ten or twelve oxen were then generally uſed in a plough. Horſes being ſeldom uſed, unleſs during ſpring, after a ſevere winter; the farmers ſometimes then yoked their horſes in a plough. Now there are

about

about 20 farmers in the parish, who still use 10 oxen in the plough; 10 or 11 farmers, use 6 or 8 oxen. The other ploughs are drawn by 4 horses, or by 2 or 4 cattle, with 2 horses going before them. There are about 87 ploughs in the parish, in all.—Very few sheep are kept; not having extensive pasturage for them. The farmers find it more profitable to rear cattle. They all have cows; and the butter of this parish has been long famous for its excellent quality. It is generally sold in the Aberdeen market at 8 d. the pound, 28 ounces Averdupois for the pound; or salted for the inhabitants of Aberdeen, at that price. The cheese is sold there, from 4 s. to 5 s. the stone, 28 pounds English the stone. Cows of a middling size, generally yield of milk from 6 to 8 Scotch pints the day, and their produce for a season (*i. e.* butter and cheese) may be reckoned in value, from L. 2 to L. 3 Sterling, from each cow. Some farmers have cows of a larger size, which give from 10 to 11 or 12 Scotch pints in the day. One keeps 14 large cows, the milk of which, after the cream is taken off, is sent every day to Aberdeen, (8 miles distant), and sold from 1 d. to 1½ d. the Scotch pint. The butter made from these cows, was 2 stone weight the week, and sold at 9 d. the pound.—Oats are sown in the month of March, and first part of April, and reaped in September and October. Bear is sown in April, and first part of May, reaped the end of August and month of September. Turnips are sown in the middle, or towards the end of June, and used during winter. The parish does much more than supply itself in provisions, besides meal and bear. Fat cattle, a few sheep, poultry, chiefly hens and ducks, are sold at Aberdeen.

Prices, Wages, Fuel, Earnings, &c.—The price of a hen or duck is from 8 d. to 10 d.; eggs 3 d. and 4 d. the dozen,

and ſometimes 5 d. or 6 d. The day's wages of a labourer in huſbandry are 9 d. in ſummer, and 7 d. in winter, or in ſummer 6 d. with victuals; of a carpenter 1 s. maſon 1 s. 6 d. tailor 6 d. with his victuals. The uſual wages of a man-ſervant employed in huſbandry are L. 5 a-year, when hired for harveſt L. 1, 10 s. Sterling; of a woman-ſervant are from L. 2, 5 s. to L. 2, 10 s. Sterling a-year, when hired for harveſt 16 s. 8 d. or 18 s. 4 d. receiving their victuals in the houſe. The farmers are obliged to hire ſervants for the whole harveſt, as day-labourers cannot be procured. The wages of a man in harveſt for a day are 1 s. with his victuals. The fuel generally uſed is peat or turf. The caſting, drying their peat and turf, and driving them, employ the farmers ſervants and horſes during a great part of the ſummer, and prove a great obſtacle to the improvement of their grounds. The farmers are far from being in comfortable circumſtances. Few of them have at firſt money for purchaſing a ſufficient ſtock of cattle, and are never able to improve them. By following the old mode of farming, as above mentioned, though they work hard along with their ſervants, and live with great ſobriety, they can ſcarcely pay their rents, and the wages of their ſervants, which have of late riſen fully one-third more than 15 or 20 years ago. The women and children are employed in working ſtockings for the manufacturers in Aberdeen. They or their ſervants come once a-fortnight to different parts of the pariſh, give wool to be ſpun, and worked on the wires into ſtockings. A woman gains from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. a-week. Some few ſpin lint, by which a little more may be gained. It is not eaſy preciſely to aſcertain the expence of a common labourer when married. He has a boll's ſowing or two from the tenant; it is plowed to him; his cow kept in ſummer with the farmer's cattle; and the ſtraw of his corn from his croft maintains the cow during

winter.

winter. He has liberty to caſt turf for himſelf, and ſometimes a few peats. He works to the farmer in harveſt, attends the plough during winter and ſpring, at which time he either receives his victuals in the farmer's houſe, or has allowed him 2 pecks of oat-meal a-week. What time he has to ſpare in ſummer, from Whitſunday to harveſt, he works for day's wages to different perſons. His wife and children weave ſtockings, as above mentioned, until the boys are fit for herding cattle. What is thus earned, if he and his wife are induſtrious, and his family keep in health, maintains them in a ſober way. Oat-meal, cabbages, greens, potatoes, whey, and ſometimes part of the milk of his cow, are their daily fare. Beer or ale they can ſeldom taſte. One great hardſhip is, that after having improved his ſmall croft, it is ſometimes taken from him. He poſſeſſes it only from year to year, and is therefore obliged to remove from place to place.

Stipend, Church, School and Poor.—The value of the living, converting the meal paid in ſtipend at 10 s. the boll, the barley at 12 s. and the glebe at the common rent of ground here, is about L. 70 or L. 71 Sterling. Mr Udny of Udny is patron. The church was at firſt built about 1600, was partly rebuilt in 1760, and received a partial reparation in 1786, but is by far too ſmall for the accommodation of the pariſh. A new manſe was built in 1759, and was conſiderably enlarged and repaired in 1781. A new ſchool-houſe was erected in 1786.—The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is L. 11 Sterling. There are generally from 30 to 40 ſcholars, and at preſent 11 boarders, at 13 guineas a-year, for board and education.—The number of poor is from 20 to 22. None of them go about as beggars, but we have a conſiderable number of ſuch from Aberdeen and neighbouring places. The annual amount of the funds for their

their relief is from L. 28 to L. 30, ariſing from ſome ſmall mortifications, and the dues of mortcloths; but principally from the collections in the church.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The people in this pariſh are ſober, induſtrious, and ſeemingly contented with their ſituation; yet there are many things which would contribute to better their circumſtances. In particular, the taking off the duty on coals, by which they could ſupply themſelves with fuel, with much leſs labour and expence, and be able to employ the ſummer in bringing lime, and incloſing their fields; whereas at preſent the ſummer is waſted in procuring peats and turf. The high duties on malt and leather, fall heavy on thoſe who have large families. If the proprietors of eſtates, inſtead of taking *graſſums* at the end of 19 years, by which their tenants are impoveriſhed, would aſk a moderate riſe of rent, give them long leaſes, encouragement for building tolerable houſes and incloſing their ground, aboliſh the multures at mills, ſo that payment could only be exacted for work, and oblige the tenants to ſubſet their ground to ſubtenants for a certain number of years, and if the public roads, which are exceedingly bad, were under better management, and kept in proper repair, the ſituation of all ranks would be conſiderably improved.—None have died from want; nor have murders, ſuicides, or atrocious crimes been committed for many years paſt. None have been baniſhed from the pariſh, nor obliged to leave it for want of employment, as there is a ſcarcity of hands for work in huſbandry. Such as have removed, have had a view of better encouragement at Aberdeen, or in the neighbouring pariſhes. Crops 1782 and 1783, being very deficient, many of the farmers were then obliged to diſpoſe of their oxen; and they have not yet recovered the loſs then ſuſtained, nor

been

been able to keep ſo good cattle, or ſuch a number of them as formerly. Crop 1782, from want of ſunſhine to ripen it, and by intenſe froſt and ſnow, which came on before it could be cut down, was exceedingly deficient. The inhabitants of this pariſh bought bear and peaſe imported at Aberdeen, by which, with their own ſcanty crop, they ſupported themſelves. The church-ſeſſion purchaſed ſome meal and grain, which they cauſed make into meal; this was ſold in ſmall quantities, to the pooreſt of the pariſhioners. Thirty bolls of meal, and 2 bolls of peaſe, granted by Government in 1783, proved a uſeful and ſeaſonable ſupply to many, ſo that no perſon died for want; but, as I have already mentioned, many of the farmers were conſiderably impoveriſhed by theſe two deficient crops.

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NUMBER XXI.

PARISH OF ORMISTOUN,

(COUNTY OF EAST LOTHIAN.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER COLVILL.

Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.

ORMISTOUN parish is situated on the west skirts of the county of East Lothian, in the presbytery of Dalkeith, and Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. Its form is very irregular, resembling in some measure a horse's shoe, winding about the parish of Pencaitland on the N. W. and S. The length is about 5 miles, the breadth very different at different places, being from 3 miles to about half a mile. It is bounded by the parish of Tranent on the N. by Pencaitland on the E. by Humbie on the S. and by Cranston on the W. The appearance of the country in general is flat. It is inclosed with hedges of white thorn, mixed with sweet briar, honeysuckle and hedge-row trees. A stranger entering the parish, is apt to mistake it for England. In general the soil is wet and late, but the air is dry and the situation healthy; no prevailing distempers. Freestone is scarce, and what is, is very coarse. Limestone in abundance.

dance. We have one coal-mine, excellent in its quality, the property of the Earl of Hopetoun.

Agriculture, &c.—Beſt lands let from L. 1, 10 s. to L. 1, 15 s. the acre. In general, there are but few cattle bred here, except what the farmers have occaſion for in the working of their farms, which they labour moſtly with horſes. The cattle they do breed are excellent, both horſes and cows. Every farmer ſupplies his ſtock of horſes from his own breeding mares, which he covers with ſtrong made ſtallions from the north of England, of the draught kind; and ſometimes with ſtrong made horſes of the road or hunting kind. One farmer here thinks the beſt breed comes from a ſtout blood ſtallion with his own working mares. Our cows are a mixture of the Holderneſs kind, with that of this country. They are ſhort horned and handſome, fatten well, and give much milk. We have had frequent inſtances of 20 Scotch pints in the day. That quantity indeed is rather extraordinary, but from 10 to 15 is common. Proviſions of all kinds, fiſh excepted, abound in this pariſh; and beſides, it ſends out ſupplies to the metropolis, and neighbouring towns.—We ſow in the months of March, April and May, and generally begin to reap in the firſt week of September. There are employed in the pariſh at preſent about 25 ploughs. The farmers deal much in the different kinds of ſown graſs, viz. clovers, rye-graſs, trefoil, rib-graſs, firſt for hay, and then for paſture. The ploughs in general are of Small's conſtruction. They have a caſt yetland mould-broad, which is curved, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick at the under edge, tapering upwards to about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch at the higher edge. They have plated or winged ſocks of iron, ſhoes and earth-board of the ſame metal, with a kneed coulter. Some have a chain fixed to the under ſide of the beam behind, and to the muzzle before,

by

by which the plough is directed. A well made improved Scotch plough is also used by the farmers here. Both instruments perform well in the hands of a skilful ploughman, who takes care to apply them to soils to which they are adapted.—The Earl of Hopetoun has valuable woods in this parish, consisting of about 70 Scotch acres.

Population.—It does not appear that the population of this parish has either been much increased or diminished for at least 100 years past. The return to Dr Webster was 810. There are at present 193 families, 132 married women, 398 above 7 years of age, and 141 below 7 years of age. The amount of the whole 864, including all sectarists. The annual average of births for 10 years, beginning with 1709, is 26; for 10 years, beginning with 1734, is 28; and for 10 years, beginning 1775, is 27. If the idea were just, 'That the population of any district or 'country may be known with sufficient accuracy, by multiplying the births by 26,' the present population of this parish would be 702, but which is 162 less than it really is. Multiplying our births by 32, corresponds with the state of our population as near as can be. Multiplying the births by 26, may perhaps ascertain the population of large cities and manufacturing towns, which are always unfavourable to the rearing of children; but, in my opinion, it cannot be applied with exactness, to healthy situations in the country. In general, throughout Scotland, it is not a register of births that is kept by the clerk of the parish, but a register of baptisms. On this account, children who are not baptised (as several are not) are not registered. Children also, whose parents are unable or unwilling to pay the dues to the clerk, are generally not registered; so that from these, and various other circumstances, I am far from thinking that the register of baptisms in Scotland is

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to be depended upon, for bringing out an exact ſtate of the population of our country. A few perſons have emigrated in queſt of better encouragement. There are 193 inhabited houſes, and the number of perſons at an average to each houſe is 4¼.

Prices and Wages.—The price of beef, mutton, pork and lamb 50 or 60 years ago, was from 1¼d. to 2½d. the Dutch pound. Few calves are, or ever were fed in this pariſh. Other articles were proportionably low. The preſent average price of beef, mutton, pork and lamb, throughout the year, is about 3½d. Wheat and other grain has advanced high this year; but the average price is, wheat L. 1, 1 s. the boll, barley 17 s. oats 14 s. and peaſe 12 s. In huſbandry, the wages of labourers, by the day, are from 9 d. to 1 s.; of wrights, 1 s. 4 d.; of brick-layers and maſons, from 1 s. 8 d. to 1 s. 10 d.; tailors, ſmiths and weavers have not advanced their wages ſo high as others mentioned above. Common labourers, when married, receive the ſame wages with thoſe mentioned above. If the man is fortunate in having a frugal and induſtrious wife, he is able to maintain and educate his family very well.

Village of Ormiſtoun.—The village of Ormiſtoun is the only one in this pariſh which deſerves the name. It contains between 500 and 600 perſons, who enjoy almoſt every natural and moral advantage for domeſtic comfort. In reſpect of health, the ſituation is very favourable. The village ſtands upon gravel, and conſiſts chiefly of two rows of houſes of two ſtories, the one fronting the ſouth, and the other the north, with a broad airy ſtreet between them. In the middle of the ſtreet is a croſs, of which there is no tradition; but from its ancient appearance, it is evidently a relick of Popery. The houſes on both ſides of the ſtreet

are ſheltered by trees, which grow in the hedge-rows of the adjacent incloſures, but not ſo much as to prevent a free circulation of air. Of this laſt circumſtance the Earl of Hopetoun is ſo attentive, as to give orders to thin his trees when they are hurtful to the inhabitants. This is chiefly a farming village. Though attempts have been made, the linen manufacture never ſucceeded here. At preſent we have two diſtilleries, and a ſtarch-work, employing between 30 and 40 hands.

Antiquities.—On the top of Dodridge Law, the higheſt ground in this pariſh, about 2 miles S. from the church, there are to be ſeen the remains of what is ſaid to have been a Roman camp. But the late Dr Henry of Edinburgh ſeemed rather to think it Daniſh.

Eminent Men.—This pariſh gave birth to the Cockburns of Ormiſtoun, a Proteſtant family at the Reformation, and Whig afterwards. Cockburn, Lord Juſtice-Clerk, was eminent as a judge and lawyer. John, his ſon and ſucceſſor, no leſs ſo as a ſtateſman and patriotic repreſentative of his country in the Union Parliament, and in ſeveral ſucceeding Parliaments. He was for a conſiderable time one of the Lords of the Admiralty. In this high ſtation he diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his abilities and attention in promoting the general commerce of Britain, and preſerving unſullied the honour of the Britiſh Flag. About the year 1740, he retired from public buſineſs, to ſettle on his own eſtate, which he conſiderably improved, but to which he did not confine his attention; for wherever his preſence was neceſſary to excite a ſpirit of improvement in agriculture and the linen manufacture, there you found Mr John Cockburn. He contributed to erect the firſt bleachfield in Scotland; and it was by his example and influence, that the firſt vigorous exertions

exertions were made in the making and repairing of high roads in this neighbourhood. Thus, from feeble beginnings, works of public utility became general through the county.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The people in general are œconomical, but for their circumſtances have rather too expenſive a taſte.—Property in land has been more fixed in this pariſh than in moſt others. The eſtate of Ormiſtoun has only once changed its proprietor for ſeveral hundred years. In the year 1747, the late Earl of Hopetoun being then proprietor of three farms in the pariſh, purchaſed the whole, ſo the preſent Earl is now ſole heritor and patron of the pariſh. The roads in general are in bad repair, and ſome bridges are wanted. The badneſs of our roads, however, is not owing to careleſſneſs, but to the deepneſs of the ſoil, and the ſcarcity of proper materials for repairing them. I deſpair of ſeeing them much altered for the better, till a proper turnpike-law is obtained.—In the ſcanty years of 1782 and 1783, the poor no doubt ſuffered; but from the humanity of the Earl of Hopetoun, not ſo much as might have been apprehended.—Near the village of Ormiſtoun, on the ſouth, is a bridge of two arches, built many years ago over the Tyne, a very ſmall river indeed at this place, but by additions which it receives in its courſe to the German Ocean, which it enters about 20 miles N. E. from Ormiſtoun, near the ſeat of the Earl of Hadington, it is greatly increaſed. Its ſource is about 8 miles ſouthward in the moor of Middleton, a high ground, and connected with hills of conſiderable extent and height.—The year 1735 or 1736 was marked by a conſiderable land-flood. In the month of June, when the day was ſtill, and clear ſun-ſhine, not a drop of rain having fallen either on that day or the preceding, a ſea of water came rolling

along

along the plain, through which the Tyne runs, covering the adjacent fields with about 3 feet depth of water. It certainly proceeded from a water-ſpout, falling on the high grounds, near the ſource of the river. The ſudden melting of ſnow, and heavy falls of rain, are alſo frequently the cauſe of floods in our river; but the valley being flat, little damage is done.—In the month of September 1787, I obſerved, between 11 and 12 o'clock at night, a complete rainbow; the moon ſhining bright in the eaſt; no wind; a little rain gently falling in the weſt, and the arch appearing between me and the rain. The colours were variegated, but all faint.—In Lord Hopetoun's garden at Ormiſtoun Hall, there is a remarkable yew tree. Its trunk is 11 feet in circumference, and 25 feet in length; the diameter of the ground overſpread by its branches is 53 feet; and there is about the 20th part of an Engliſh acre covered by it. This tree is ſtill growing in full vigour, without the leaſt ſymptom of decay in any of its branches, which increaſe yearly in length about an inch. There is no tradition that can be depended upon, for exactly aſcertaining its age; but from the beſt information, it cannot be under 200 years old. It ſeems rather more probable to be between 300 and 400 years old.

NUMBER XXII.

PARISH OF CUSHNIE,

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. Mr FRANCIS ADAM.

Name, Situation, Soil, &c.

CUSHNIE, or *Couſhnie*, is ſaid to ſignify in the Gaelic, "Hoarfroſt." The pariſh lies in the county and Synod of Aberdeen, and preſbytery of Alford. It is ſmall, irregular, and mountainous. Bounded by the pariſhes of Tarland on the S.; Forbes and Kildrummie, on the N.; Coldſtone, on the W.; Leochel, on the E.; Towie, on the N. W.; Alford, on the N. E.; and Coul, on the S. E. The ſoil is but indifferent, and ſomewhat inclined to clay; the air, although moiſt, is tolerably healthy; and the hills are covered with heath. The weather is much more ſevere than in its neighbourhood, occaſioned, no doubt, by its ſituation; being in the boſom of a large open glen, and pretty high. There is very little wood, and no mineral, excepting a quarry of good building ſtones, near the Church, eaſily wrought. A ſmall rivulet iſſues from the glen, in the weſtern extremity of the pariſh, which is pretty well ſtored with burn-trout, and runs eaſtward, until it meets with the burn of Leochel, where they

they take a more northerly courſe, until they empty themſelves into the Don.

Population, &c.—According to Dr Webſter, the number of ſouls, about 40 years ago, was 500. The amount at preſent is, by actual enumeration, 207 males, and 223 females; total 430. At an average of 20 years, from 1731 to 1751, there have been 16 births yearly; but from 1770 to 1790, 11 baptiſms only appear from the records; and from 1785 to 1790, only 4 marriages yearly.

The inhabitants are in general healthy, and live to a conſiderable age; ſome to 80, and even 90 years, but few beyond that period. Nor have there been any murders or ſuicides, or any baniſhments; and but very few emigrations. Neither have any died from want, to my knowledge, in the pariſh.

The proportion between the births and whole population, is as 1 to 40 nearly; between the marriages and population, as 1 to 107; and each marriage, at an average, produces about 4 children. The number of heritors is 4, none of whom reſide. There are 7 Seceders, and 4 Epiſcopalians.

Agriculture, &c.—The farms are generally ſmall, from L. 5 to L. 6 Sterling yearly rent, and unincloſed. Nor are the farmers convinced of the advantages of incloſures. The rent of the beſt arable ground, is from 18 s. to 20 s. each acre; and the worſt, from 8 s. to 10 s. the acre. There are in the pariſh, about 34 ploughs of arable ground, and 24 carts. The old Scotch plough is generally uſed as moſt proper for ſtiff and ſtony ground. We generally ſow in the months of March and April, and reap in September and October; and the pariſh does, for the moſt part, ſupply itſelf with proviſions. Our exports are very trifling; ſometimes

ſometimes a little oat-meal and bear, and a few black cattle. The land rent of the pariſh is about L. 456 Sterling, converting the victual at 10s. the boll.

Church, Stipend, Poor, &c.—The church is covered with heath, and was built in 1637, and the manſe in 1724. The value of the living, including the glebe, is L. 49 : 6 : 8 Sterling, converting the victual at 10 s. the boll. In the year 1782, about 20 perſons were on the poors roll, which, in 1790, were reduced to half that number. Our annual contributions, with the intereſt of legacies, ſeat-money, &c. after deducting ſeſſion-clerk and officer fees, amount to about L. 7, 2 s. Sterling.

Wages, &c.—A common day-labourer earns 6 d.; a maſon, 1 s.; a carpenter, from 6 d. to 8 d.; and a tailor, 6 d. a day, excluſive of maintenance. I cannot poſitively aſcertain the expence of a labourer, when married; but it is well known that ſuch have great difficulty in rearing their families, as it is only for a few months in ſummer that they can get employment; and were it not that the women make ſomething by knitting ſtockings, and that the female children are employed in that way as ſoon as capable, it would be abſolutely impoſſible for them, without aſſiſtance, to make a ſhift to live. The fuel is turf and peat. The annual wages of a man ſervant, employed in huſbandry, are from L. 5 to L. 6 Sterling; thoſe of a woman, from L. 2 to L. 3 Sterling; and for boys, from 30s. to 40 s. Sterling, excluſive of maintenance.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The men are by no means fond of a military life. The women are employed in ſpinning and knitting; and, for the moſt part, both ſexes are induſtrious and œconomical. The ſtature of the men is, from

from 5 feet 4 inches, to 6 feet; and that of the women, from 5 feet 2 inches, to 5 feet 8 inches. It is difficult to ſay whether the people are, on the whole, contented with their ſituation. If I may hazard an opinion, I think they are not. The ſhortneſs of their leaſes, their high rents, and the exorbitant wages of the labouring ſervants, render the ſituation of the farmers very irkſome. I obſerve that even the prices of the ſhoes worn by the country people, although the deareſt article of wearing apparel, are but about thrice the price for which they were bought about 40 years ago; whereas the fees or wages of labouring ſervants have ſtill increaſed in a greater degree ſince that period. The ſhoes are as 1 s. to 3 s. Sterling; but the wages as 15 s. to L. 3 Sterling. I obſerve, however, that the common people live rather better, and dreſs to more advantage than in former times; although every article of wearing apparel, particularly that moſt neceſſary one, ſhoes, are at leaſt thrice the price for which they could have been procured about 40 years ago. This is no doubt, in ſome meaſure, owing to the increaſe of manufactures, and value of cattle, which generally fetch triple, if not four times the price they gave in former times. Superſtition ſeems alſo, if I miſtake not, to loſe ground, and the manners of the people are ſomewhat more poliſhed. Natural children are by no means ſo frequent here, as formerly; although delinquents are much leſs harſhly dealt by.—The ſtatute-labour is generally exacted in kind, but the roads are very indifferent. There are no turnpikes; nor do the people know enough about them, to form a judgment of their utility.—In 1782 and 1783, the crop was remarkably deficient, and the oat-meal very bad; inſomuch, that had it not been for the importation, numbers would have periſhed. I myſelf had ſcarcely a boll of meal for every 5 bolls of raw or undried oats. The bear was

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the only grain on which we could have any dependence; and even this was ſo much inferior to former years, as to be, as well as the oats, unfit for ſeed. So that we were obliged to get our ſeed from more early places; and ſuch as did not, turned out to be great loſers.

Engliſh is the only language now known in the pariſh, the Gaelic having ceaſed to be underſtood.

NUMBER XXIII.

PARISH OF RYND,

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM TAYLOR.

Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, Surface, &c.

THE name, in Gaelic, is ſaid to ſignify 'a point;' and both the pariſh and the eſtate of Rynd, probably took this name from the point of land where the rivers Tay and Earn meet, about half a mile below the church. The pariſh is ſituated in the county of Perth, in the preſbytery of Perth, and Synod of Perth and Stirling. It extends from the point mentioned, more than 4 miles along the river Tay, and meets the pariſh of Perth at Orchard-nook. It is about a mile in breadth; the line that divides it from the pariſh of Dumbarnie on the one ſide, being nearly parallel to the winding courſe of the Tay on the other; ſo that the form of the pariſh is nearly oblong, having the church (very inconveniently for the bulk of the people) placed almoſt in one of the angles. It is bounded by the pariſhes of Perth and Dumbarnie on the W.; by that of Abernethy on the S. from which it is ſeparated by the river Earn; and on the E. and N. by the pariſhes of St Madois and Kinfauns, from which it is ſeparated by the Tay.

In

In general, the ſoil is fertile. The ground is flat for about a mile and a half from the river Earn to the eaſt end of the hill of Moncrieff, and the ſoil a deep clay. A narrow ſtrip of the ſame clay ſoil lies all around the eaſt end of the hill, by the ſide of the Tay, up to Orchardnook; and from this ſtrip the ground riſes by an aſcent ſo eaſy, that it is all arable. The ſoil upon this riſing ground is light and ſharp, but abundantly fertile, when properly laboured and limed. There are beſides ſome haughs, cloſe by the rivers Tay and Earn, lying about 30 feet lower than the flat clay ſoil mentioned above, and ſome iſlands in the Tay, belonging to the pariſh, all of a rich loamy ſoil, which, when the tides are kept off (as has been endeavoured to be done) by banks, have yielded the moſt luxuriant crops, without any manure, for ſeveral years. The air is rather moiſt, but not unhealthy. Agues have been leſs frequent than in ſome places where the air ſhould ſeem to be drier, owing perhaps to a ſtream of air which is generally found upon the banks of rivers.

Population.—The return of the number of inhabitants to Dr Webſter was 498; in 1766, it was about 450; at preſent it is 495, although the farmers who have come into the pariſh ſince that time do not keep up ſo many cottar-houſes; and in ſome caſes two farms have been turned into one. The annual average of births is about 16; of marriages about 4. There are under 10 years of age 126; between 10 and 20, 97; between 20 and 50, 182; between 50 and 70, 77; above 70, 13; in all 495; of whom, males, 235, females, 260; married above 20, including widowers and widows, 190; unmarried above 20, 83; the average number of children to each family is $6\frac{1}{2}$. A perſon named Laurence Kinmont, died here in the year 1757, aged 111; and there have been ſeveral inſtances of lives between 80

and

and 100, within this century. There are 3 heritors, one of whom reſides in the pariſh. There are 22 handicraftſmen, about 30 fiſhermen, and 1 ferryman. About 160 are of the Eſtabliſhed Church, and about 270 Seceders. There are 86 inhabited houſes. The average number to each houſe is computed to be 5 inhabitants.

Agriculture, &c.—There are 5 principal farmers, who poſſeſs from 200 to 360 acres each, which they labour with a plough for about every 40 acres; there are 10 other farmers, who poſſeſs from 30 to 60 acres each, which they labour uſually with one plough; and, in general, their families conſiſt of a man for every plough, a boy or 2 to take care of their cattle, and 2 or 3 maid-ſervants. They have beſide as many hands as are neceſſary to threſh out their corns, who are generally their cottagers, and are employed in threſhing through the winter. The farmers have generally one part of their land, about a 6th, in fallow, another in wheat, another in peaſe, another in barley, another in clover and rye-graſs, and another in oats. But this proportion is ſometimes varied, commonly for the ſake of having a greater quantity of wheat, which, beſides being ſown conſtantly after the fallow, is ſown alſo ſometimes after peaſe, and ſometimes after graſs. As the principal farmers labour in a very ſuperior ſtyle, and raiſe as much out of their ground as is done perhaps any where in the iſland, the pariſh does much more than ſupply itſelf with proviſions, and very conſiderable quantities of all kinds of grain are annually exported, but chiefly of wheat and barley. About 10 acres may be ſown in flax, which they raiſe for their own uſe, and about as many in potatoes and turnips. They have not much in paſture, as they feed their horſes with graſs in the houſe, and ſend their young cattle to other places for paſture through the ſummer. Oats and peaſe

are

are ſown in March, barley and graſs in May, and wheat in the end of September and October. Wheat harveſt commonly begins about the middle of Auguſt, ſooner or later according to the ſeaſon. The average rent of land the acre, may be about L. 1, 4 s. The greateſt part of the pariſh is incloſed with quickſet hedges; but the farmers begin to complain that they harbour vermin, which deſtroy the crop, and prevent a free circulation of air, ſo neceſſary for winning it in harveſt. In the hilly part of the pariſh, there are about 30 acres, conſiſting of ſome waſte ground, which, though moſtly covered with heath and whins, yields ſome paſture, and of ſeveral rocky hillocks, ſome of which are planted with Scotch firs, in a very thriving condition. There are beſide two fields in the low part of the pariſh as yet waſte, containing about 20 acres; but they belong to two of the principal farmers, who are about to break them up. The land-rent may be about L. 1600 Sterling. The rent of the fiſhings may be about L. 300. There are about 112 horſes, and 400 black cattle.

Price of Labour, &c.—The price of labour in all the operations of huſbandry has increaſed about one half within theſe 40 years. A man-ſervant's wages in the year being now about L. 8, and a woman's 50 s. when maintained in the houſe. A labourer's wages for a day, without victuals, are 1 s. A man, during harveſt, gets 20 s. and a woman 15 s. A labourer's wages are ſufficient to enable him to bring up a family, except in caſes of ſickneſs or misfortune. A maſon's wages are 1 s. 6 d. a day; a carpenter's 1 s. 2 d.; a tailor gets 6 d. with his victuals.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The ſtipend, including the glebe, is between L. 90 and L. 100. Mr Oſwald of Scotſtown is patron. The ſalary of the ſchoolmaſter is L. 8, 6 s.

6 s. 8 d.; the one half paid by the heritors, and the other by the tenants. His perquiſites are, 1 s. the quarter for Engliſh, 1 s. 6 d. for writing and arithmetic. The kirk-ſeſſion give him 30 s. a year, as their clerk, and for teaching ſuch poor ſcholars as they ſhall appoint. He has 6 d. for every baptiſm, and 1 s. for every marriage. Beſides, he is appointed collector of the aſſeſſments for the poor, for which he is allowed 20 s. a-year. He has for common more than 40 ſcholars, part of whom are from the adjacent parts of the pariſhes of Perth and Dumbarnie. His whole income may amount to about L. 19 Sterling. The number of the poor is 8 at an average. The annual ſum diſtributed to them, is about L. 21; which is made up by aſſeſſing the pariſh, according to law, as the other funds fall ſhort of what the poor require.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There is a ſteel mineral ſpring, in appearance very ſtrong; but it has never been reſorted to.—The common fuel is coal, which is moſtly brought by water carriage. Some broom and whins are likewiſe uſed by the common people. The pariſh being ſurrounded by the rivers Tay and Earn, is a conſiderable advantage to the farmers, both for importing lime, &c. and exporting their grain. The roads and bridges are good. They were made, and are kept in repair by the ſtatute-labour, which is partly exacted in kind, and partly commuted. There are no turnpikes.—The ruins of a nunnery at Orchardnook remain, about a mile W. from the caſtle of Elcho, cloſe by the Tay. It is ſaid to have been founded by David Lindſay, anceſtor of the Earls of Crawford, and his mother Catharine Abernethey, a co-heireſs of Alexander Lord Abernethey, who was proprietor of Elcho in the reign of Robert Bruce. The ruins lie in the middle of a large orchard, and from the ground which they

they occupy, the nunnery would appear to have been a pretty extenſive building. The lands at that time are ſaid to have belonged to the monaſtery of Dunfermline.

There is a tradition, that, in ſome very remote period, the river Tay had its courſe on the north ſide of the Carſe of Gowrie, by the foot of the hills: That ſo long as the river kept this channel, St Madois and this were one pariſh: That after the Tay took its preſent courſe, by the weſt end of the Carſe, the people ſtill continued to croſs the river in boats to the church, which, the tradition ſays, ſtood at that time farther down, and nearer to the point where the rivers Tay and Earn meet; until one Sunday, the boat was overſet in a ſtorm, and all the people in it periſhed: That in conſequence of this, St Madois was erected into a pariſh by itſelf; and the church of Rynd removed farther up, to the place where it now ſtands. In confirmation of, at leaſt, one part of the ſtory, two known facts are alledged, *viz.* that a field in the farm of Eaſter Rynd, before it was incloſed, and put into its preſent form, was called the Kirkland; and that in tilling this field, ſome freeſtones, that ſeemed to have been uſed in building, had been turned up by the plough. There is certainly not a ſtone of any kind to be found in all the low flat ground that lies between the rivers and the foot of the eaſt end of the Hill of Moncrieff, the whole being one continued maſs of clay, for about 30 feet deep, intermixed with many ſtrata of ſand, of different thickneſſes, and in ſeveral places with beds of hard moſs, which the rivers ſometimes waſh down from their banks, and which the common people uſe for fuel.

With reſpect to farmers, it is manifeſt that the employing cottager ſervants, and the employing unmarried houſe ſervants, have each their peculiar advantages and diſadvantages; and it is hard to ſay, which of them ought to be

be preferred, or whether any one of them ſhould be univerſally adopted in preference to the other. Much perhaps will depend upon circumſtances, in any particular caſe. But the fact is, the principal farmers in the pariſh have come more into the way of employing cottagers within the laſt 6 years, inſtead of unmarried ſervants, as for ſeveral years before. Theſe cottagers, however, are all hired for the year, and do not work by the day, or by the piece. With regard to the country in general, no doubt the effect of employing cottagers will be to increaſe population, particularly the number of labouring ſervants; and in conſequence of this, their wages will be kept more moderate, and the farmer will more eaſily procure ſuch unmarried ſervants as he may wiſh to have. The other method has evidently all the oppoſite effects.

There are two alehouſes upon the public road, and chiefly ſupported by travellers, and by the fiſhers, during the time of the ſalmon fiſhing. In general, the morals of the people can hardly be ſaid to ſuffer from them. At the ſame time, it muſt be acknowledged, that they give more eaſy and frequent opportunities of tippling to thoſe who are addicted to that vice.

NUMBER XXIV.

PARISH OF ABBOT'S HALL,

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. Mr GEORGE SHAW.

Name, Situation, Soil, &c.

IT is ſaid that an Abbot of Dunfermline built a ſummer-houſe near the place where the church of Abbot's Hall now ſtands, and called it the Hall of the Abbot. Abbot's Hall is in the county and Synod of Fife, and preſbytery of Kirkaldy. Its form is very irregular, being interſected in ſeveral places by the neighbouring pariſhes. In the broadeſt and longeſt corners it may be about 2 miles each way. It is bounded by Kirkaldy on the E. Kinghorn and Auchtertool on the W. Auchterderran on the N. and the frith of Forth on the S. The general appearance of the country is very pleaſant; it is flat for about near half a mile north of the coaſt; from thence riſes into pretty high grounds, or beautiful banks, ſloping gently. The air is dry and healthy. The ſoil, immediately by the town, is light and ſandy, but very fertile, eſpecially in ſhowery ſummers. It can ſcarcely be hurt by rain, but eaſily by drought. As it riſes northwards, it is deeper and ſtronger,

but thin and cold on the north ſkirts. The extent of ſea-coaſt is about half a mile, lying along the weſt ſide of the Bay of Kirkaldy. It is very flat and ſandy, but exceedingly pleaſant; moſt of the towns and villages on the coaſt are pleaſantly ſituated.—The lands of Abbot's Hall, which belong to Mr Fergufon of Raith, abound in coal of different ſeams, it is ſaid, ſome 3, 5, and even 14 feet. Part of the crop-coal only was wrought about 40 years ago.

Population.—The ancient extent of the population is not eaſily traced, but was much leſs than at preſent. The return to Dr Webſter, about 40 years ago, was only 1348 ſouls. In 1791, the total population is 2136; males 1061, females 1075. The number of inhabitants in the town is 1660, in the country 476. The annual average of births is 50, of deaths 44, of marriages 22. Under 10 years of age there are 249 males, 239 females; only a few perſons are between 80 and 90. There are 6 heritors, 2 of whom reſide. Farmers 25, their families about 200; 8 principal manufacturers, beſides a few ſmaller ones; apprentices 50; ſeamen about 10 or 12; male houſehold-ſervants 63; female 60; merchants 12. The great bulk of the inhabitants are tradeſmen, being wholly employed in manufactures. Families of gentry 3; 1 in the town and 2 in the country. One miniſter of the Eſtabliſhed Church, and a perſon who preaches to a ſmall Cameronian meeting. The number of the Eſtabliſhed Church 1338, of Seceders 798. Within theſe 20 years, the population of the town is increaſed between 300 and 400; but the country part of the pariſh is decreaſed above 100. The increaſe of the former is owing to the manufactures, and the decreaſe of the latter to a coal-work being entirely given up, and 7 or 8 farms being taken into one. Batchelors 27, married men 187, widow-

ers

ers 20, widows 87. At an average, each marriage produces 3 children.

Agriculture, &c.—Extenſive plantations have been for ſeveral years, and are ſtill carrying on by Mr Fergufon of Raith. There being in this pariſh about 143 acres occupied by plantations, little or none of theſe grounds are arable, and are ſo ſteep that they are fit for nothing elſe. The number of horſes, cows, cattle and young beaſts may be about 1250. The acres in the pariſh are about 3165. In corn 530, in turnip and cabbage 85, in potatoes 84, in wheat 85, in barley 250, in peaſe 176, in ſown graſs 164, in common paſturage 1278, for feeding cattle 300, in ſummer fallow 70. Oats and peaſe are ſown from the beginning of March to the middle of April; barley from the beginning of May to near the end of it; wheat in September and October, and turnip from the middle of July, &c. They reap ſometimes in the end of Auguſt, and the beginning of September. The pariſh imports articles of proviſion. The valued rent of this pariſh is L. 798 : 9 : 9. The real rent may be about L. 3165. The arable land near the town is about L. 3, 10s. the acre. Beſt paſture upwards of L. 2, 10s. On the north ſkirts of the pariſh, ſome as low as 5s. the acre. In general, the ſize of farms is from 200 to near 300 acres. The rent about L. 200. There may be a few ſmaller. The number of farms is decreaſing conſiderably, owing to their being larger. Except the land immediately by the town, the pariſh is wholly incloſed, and the farmers are ſo much convinced of the advantage thereof, that they do not think they would be able to pay their advanced rents, if it were not ſo. There are 50 ploughs, of which the one half is the old Scotch plough, improved by being made lighter, and the other half the Engliſh plough made by Small, or after his conſtruction,

ſtruction. There are alſo 50 carts in the country part of the pariſh, and 20 more in the town; 3 carriages, 1 of which is a coach, and the others 2 four-wheeled chaiſes.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The ſtipend, except 100 merks in money, being paid in victual, varies with the prices. It is 46 bolls of barley, 34 of meal, and 36 of oats; but taken at the lateſt valuation, of L. 100 Scots the chalder, including the manſe and glebe, which is 6½ acres, may be about L. 80. Mr Ferguſon of Raith is patron. A new, larger, and more elegant church was built 4 years ago, in the ſame place where the old ſtood. The firſt manſe in this pariſh was built in the 1772, the miniſter having till then only an allowance of L. 5 for a houſe.—The ſalary of the parochial ſchool is about L. 7; perquiſites ariſing from baptiſms and proclamations about L. 5; from the ſeſſion and at the communion L 2; L. 5 for teaching poor ſcholars, being the intereſt of L. 100, mortified about 30 years ago, by a Mr Dundas, who lived at Raith. The number of ſcholars at an average is about 60. There may be 2 or 3 ſmall private ſchools in the town.—There are 6 poor on the roll, and ſeveral others are ſupplied according as their need requires. The annual amount of the contributions for their relief, ariſing from the collections at the church, the intereſt of money, &c. is about L. 50; and the pariſh is well able to ſupply its own poor, were they not oppreſſed with vagrants from almoſt every quarter, eſpecially from the North, going to and from the Infirmary at Edinburgh.

Prices, Wages, &c.—The prices of proviſions are near double what they were 30 and 40 years ago. Beef, mutton, veal, lamb, and pork, &c. are 4½ d. and 5 d. the pound, according to the different ſeaſons, all Troy or heavy weight.

Pigs

Pigs 4 s. geeſe 2 s. 6 d. ducks 8 d. each, chickens 6 d. and 8 d. the pair, butter 9 d. cheeſe, ſuch as is commonly ſold, 3 d. the pound, all heavy weight; wheat and barley at 1 s. Sterling below the Mid-Lothian fiars, &c. Day-labourers get 1 s. carpenters, maſons, &c. get 1 s. 6 d. tailors, when they work out, 6 d. and their meat; but they moſtly work in their own houſes, at ſo much the piece. The only fuel is coal, price paid on the ſpot, 6 d. the load, weighing 22 ſtone. On different coal-hills the weight is different, and ſo are the prices. Some within half a mile, 2 and 3 miles, &c. Such as are frugal and attentive, ſeem to live comfortably in their ſituation, and bring up large families in general. Their children coſt them little, and as ſoon as they can do any thing, are employed in manufactures; their wages are exceeding good, and double of what they were formerly. The wages of male-ſervants are L. 6 and L. 7, of female L 2, 10 s. and L. 3 a-year. There are but about 8 livery-ſervants, and their wages vary from L. 10 to L. 20, L. 30, &c. according to their ſtations, &c.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—In general, the people are of the middle ſize. The greateſt height which any have attained, is about 6 feet 2 inches. They are very much diſpoſed to induſtry.—In the town are 3 principal manufactures, under the name of Checks and Bed-tikes. Theſe employ between 200 and 300 looms in the pariſh, and a great number in the pariſhes around. Two of theſe have each an extenſive bleachfield near by, where they whiten their own yarn. Beſides theſe, are a few who do a little in the ſame branches. There are beſides 5 cotton manufactures of the name of the Spinning Jeanies, the heavy parts of which are driven by a horſe-engine. Theſe employ near 200 hands, ſeveral of whom are children, &c. Other buildings are preſently erecting for the ſame, &c.—

The

The roads are tolerably good. There are only 2 ſmall bridges, which ſeparate the pariſh from the neighbouring one on the weſt, both in good caſe, and lately repaired, made and kept by the county. The ſtatute-labour is exacted partly in kind and partly in money.—Though the harveſt was late in 1782, and the weather very unfavourable, ſo that the prices roſe much above what they uſed to be, yet it was not ſo ſeverely felt in this part of the country as in ſome others, owing partly to the dryneſs of the ſituation, and to a conſiderable quantity of corn being imported ſtraight from the Baltic into the harbour of Kirkcaldy, &c. The poor had very liberal ſupplies. Mr Ferguſon gave L. 50 to be diſtributed among them, and the ſeſſion, at the deſire of the heritors, lifted L. 40, and diſpoſed of it to the ſame purpoſe, over and above their ordinary diſtribution.—There are 4 brewers in the town. Theſe keep decent houſes, and good company. But there are ſeveral that are commonly called Tapſters, becauſe they ſell ale to theſe brewers, that are nuiſances to ſociety.—Within theſe 20 years, above 100 new houſes have been built in the town. About the one half of theſe are on new foundations, and the other on old ones, made much larger and better; and in the country part of the pariſh are upwards of 20. Some ſtill employ cottagers, and others do not, preferring hired ſervants to them, and conſequently differ in their ſentiments concerning the effects.

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NUMBER XXV.

PARISH OF INCHTURE,

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN MILLAR.

Name, Situation, &c.

THIS pariſh and that of Roſſie were united in 1670, and the church of Roſſie is now a ruin. *Inchture*, or *Inchtower*, ſeems to have got its name from ſtanding on a riſing ground. It is allowed, that ſome time ago the river Tay ran on the north ſide of the Carſe of Gowrie, and joined the river Earn at a place called Invergowrie, about 2 miles W. from Dundee. Several towns, ſituated upon the higher grounds between theſe rivers, are hence called Inch *this* and Inch *that*, Inchmartine, Inchmichael, Meggginch, Inchture, &c. This pariſh lies in the county of Perth, in the preſbytery of Dundee, and Synod of Angus and Mearns, extending from S. to N. about 4 miles, and from E. to W. about 3. It is bounded on the E. by the pariſh of Longforgan; on the S. by the rivers Tay and Earn, which now run in one channel; on the W. by the pariſhes of Errol and Kinnaird; and on the N. by the pariſh of Abernyte, and a part of Longforgan pariſh.

Population.

Population.—In the village of Inchture are 84 families, and about 360 ſouls. There is a probability that this village and pariſh will ſoon become more populous. In the courſe of theſe 17 years paſt, it has increaſed about 24 families; and as the turnpike-road between Perth and Dundee, which is juſt now making, goes through this town, Lord Kinnaird, who is ſole proprietor of it, intends to enlarge and improve it. There are only other 5 villages in the pariſh, and in them are about 100 families, and about 640 ſouls. So that, in the pariſh, there are in all about 184 families, and 1000 ſouls; of theſe, about 250 under 10 years of age. The return to Dr Webſter was 893 ſouls. The number of males and females is nearly equal. Some years ago, this pariſh was more populous than it is at preſent; but the decreaſe has been owing to ſome lands being converted into pleaſure grounds. In ſome years of late, there have been 18 or 19 marriages; at a medium, theſe laſt 16 years, there have been 14 yearly. There have been, in the ſame ſpace of time, at a medium, 39 baptiſms. In the ſame ſpace of time, there have been, in ſome years, 20 deaths; but the medium for the laſt 7 years is 18.

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1783	43	17	17
1784	38	11	31
1785	46	15	16
1786	51	19	14
1787	33	15	13
1788	50	20	20
1789	34	14	18
1790	48	14	19

The ſmall-pox was very frequent in 1784, and many died. There is ſtill a prejudice againſt inoculation.

Heritors,

Heritors, Rent, Culture, &c.—The heritors in this pariſh are 3 in number, one of whom only reſides at preſent. The valued rent is L. 593, 13 s. Sterling. The real rent may be about L. 6000 Sterling. The number of acres of arable land, 3000. All the ground in this pariſh is exceeding rich, and well improven, chiefly by lime, which ſuits beſt with a clay ſoil. The farms in general are extenſive, ſcarce one of them leſs than 100 acres, ſome of them 200, and one about 300. Farms, of late years, have been let at 40 s. and 45 s. an acre; and 3 years ago, a large farm, conſiſting of about 300 acres, above 50 s. In general, the rents are paid, part in victual, and part in money. The farmers here are wealthy, and live genteelly. They ſend only 1 man and 2 horſes to a plough. Wages to a good ploughman, are from L. 8 to L. 10 a-year; a day-labourer gets 9 d. or 10 d. a-day, and his meat; in harveſt, 1 s. a day, or L. 1, 1 s. for the whole harveſt-work; a woman gets 15 s. for harveſt. Womens wages are yearly about L. 3. There are but few manufacturers, the farmers chooſing rather to let their houſes to day-labourers. About 40 or 50 years ago, oxen were much employed in ploughing, but now horſes only. The pariſh is reckoned about 60 ploughs; but at particular ſeaſons, nearly 80 are employed. The farms are generally divided into 6 parts, wheat, barley, beans or peaſe, oats, clover-graſs, and fallow. Ground properly fallowed and limed, often produces 15 bolls of wheat the acre; the average produce of whole farms is 10. Threſhing mills are of late a very great improvement. There are five of them in this pariſh. One goes by water, and will threſh 30 bolls in an hour, and alſo ſeparates the corn from the chaff. The other mills, which require 3 or 4 horſes to drive them, can threſh 25 bolls in an hour. A mill employs 6 or 7 men to feed the mill, as they phraſe it, carry off the ſtraw, &c. and

1 to drive the horſes. There is at Polgovie, a town in this pariſh, a pier and harbour for ſhipping, where a veſſel of 60 or 70 tons can get in; there great quantities of victual are ſhipped, and a great deal of lime and coals is unloaded.

Stipend, Poor, School, &c.—The church and manſe here are both old. The ſtipend is near 13 bolls wheat, 46 bolls barley, 36 bolls meal, and 34 bolls oats, and near L. 11 money. By the annexation of the glebe formerly at Roſſie, to the glebe here, it is about 11 acres, including the garden. The King is patron.—The poors fund is above L. 200 Sterling. There are not many poor, and none of them are allowed to travel as beggars.—The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is L. 80 Scots; the ſcholars ſeldom fewer than 60, and at certain ſeaſons of the year, betwixt 70 and 80. His income, by his ſalary, ſeſſion-clerk fee, ſcholars, and perquiſites in the pariſh, I ſuppoſe amounts to between L. 27 and L. 30 a-year. He has a large commodious houſe.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There is not, properly ſpeaking, an inn in the pariſh. Only one perſon at preſent makes malt and ale, and there are 6 more that have licences to ſell ale and Britiſh ſpirits. In general, the people here are ſober and induſtrious. Almoſt the whole houſes in this pariſh, have been built anew within theſe 16 years paſt. The farmers houſes are elegant, in compariſon of what they were of late years, and moſt of them are covered with blue ſlate. The lower claſs of people are likewiſe much better lodged than they formerly were. In the village called Balledgarno, Lord Kinnaird built houſes to accommodate 18 families, each of them having 2 fire apartments, in the courſe of laſt ſummer, all covered with blue ſlate, and there is not more than the third part

of

of his Lordſhip's plan yet executed. All the remaining old houſes are to be pulled down, and a neat large village erected, which, when completed, I ſuppoſe will accommodate 60 or more families. The farmers here rather chuſe to employ their cottagers, than hired ſervants.—The ague, which, not more than 30 years ago, was a very frequent diſeaſe, is now not more ſo than in other parts of the country, which is to be attributed to the ground's being greatly drained.

NUM

NUMBER XXVI.

PARISH of HUTTON,

(COUNTY OF BERWICK.)

By the Rev. Mr ADAM LANDELS.

Situation, Surface, Soil, Rivers, &c.

THIS parish is situated in the county of Berwick, the presbytery of Chirnside, and Synod of Merse and Tivіotdale. Its form is very irregular. It extends from E. to W. full 4 miles; from N. to S. 3. On the S. it is bounded by the river Tweed; on the S. W. by the parishes of Ladykirk and Whitsome; on the W. by Edrom; on the N. W. by Chirnside; on the N. by Foulden; and on the N. E. by Mordington. The general appearance of the country is flat. On the banks of the Whittader, there are some rocks, but of no great height. The soil on the banks of the Tweed and Whittader, is deep and loamy; but towards the middle of the parish, it is thin, on a strong clay. The air is sometimes moist, but generally dry, and the people remarkably healthy. They were formerly much afflicted with the ague, but are now much more subject to consumptions. The Whittader, a small river that bounds the parish on the N. produces a few salmon, and great plenty, as well as great variety, of trout. The Tweed

produces

produces a great quantity of ſalmon, gilſes, and whitling trout, the laſt of which are carried to London alive, in wells in the Berwick ſmacks, and weigh generally about 3 lb. Ten boats or cobles are the higheſt number allowed to be kept on this ſide the river, in the pariſh. The ſalmon are of the greateſt value in the months of January and February. One ſalmon, from the fiſhing of New-water, in January 1791, not 2 ſtone weight, ſold for L. 3: 0: 2, at Berwick, for the London market. The rent of the fiſhing waters is upwards of L. 200 a year, and about 12 men are employed. The tide flows to Norham caſtle, which is 10 miles from Berwick. A boat of 30 tons can come up the river to New-water Ford, which is 6 miles from Berwick.—There is great plenty of moorſtone and freeſtone on the banks of the Tweed and Whittader, moſt excellent for building, and of a fine white colour. The haugh-lands on the Tweed and Whittader, are ſometimes flooded, when there is any remarkable fall of rain or ſnow.

Animals, Agriculture, &c.—The cattle are of the Tees-water breed, large and handſome; and when properly fed, will weigh upwards of 100 ſtone Engliſh. The ſheep are alſo of a large kind. Wedders are often ſold, when 2 years old, for L. 1, 15 s. the head, when ſhorn; and their fleece is worth 5 s. 6 d. or 6 s. One proprietor has juſt now ſold 50 wedders at L. 105, after they were ſhorn; their fleece, for the 2 years, worth 12 s. Wool is ſold at 15 s. and 16 s. the ſtone, 24 lb. to the ſtone. Ewes are ſold for breeding at L. 2 a head, and great prices are given for the hire of rams of the Leiceſterſhire breed, for the ſeaſon. Hog-ſheep, before they are ſhorn, are ſold at L. 1, L. 1, 4 s. and L. 1, 7 s. the head, for the Yorkſhire markets. There are about 170 horſes, beſides young ones. About 3000 ſheep at the Martinmas, 2000 more of lambs

at

at the Whitſunday; and upwards of 450 cattle.—There are about 5200 acres of land in the pariſh. The one half of it in corn and turnips, the other half in hay, paſture, and wood. About 200 acres of wood. The annual rent of the pariſh, land, mills, fiſhings, &c. is L. 4000 Sterling. The rent of the beſt arable ground is L. 2, 2 s. the acre. Conſiderable farms are let at L. 1; inferior lands, at 10 s. and 15 s. Many of the farms are of that ſize, as to let at L. 300 and L. 400 yearly. One reckoned worth L. 500 a-year, was rented, leſs than 40 years ago, at L. 50 or L. 60 a-year. There are 50 ploughs, all of them the chain plough, drawn by 2 horſes. The land in the pariſh is all incloſed.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter, the number of ſouls was 751. The preſent ſtate of population is as follows:—

From 10 years and under, -	234
From 10 to 20, - -	172
From 20 to 30, - -	138
From 30 to 40, - -	141
From 40 to 50, - -	83
From 50 to 60, - -	61
From 60 to 70, - -	44
From 70 to 80, - -	40
From 80 to 90, - -	7
In all,	920

Of whom are males, 417. Females, 503. In the village of Paxton, 271. In the village of Hutton, 210. In 1770, there were, according to the regiſter, 30 baptiſms; deaths, 12. In 1780, 32 baptiſms; deaths, 14. In 1790, 28 baptiſms; deaths, 20. The heritors having conſiderable property, are 8; beſides a number of ſmall proprietors.

proprietors. There are about 12 farmers, beſides ſeveral carters, who occupy ſmall portions of land, and who are employed in driving lime and coal. There are about 20 handicraftſmen, 8 or 10 apprentices.—There is no other kind of emigration but that which takes place at the Whitſunday, when there is a removal of many hinds, herds, and cottagers, into neighbouring pariſhes; whoſe places are, at the ſame time, filled up by others of the ſame deſcription, who are actuated by an unaccountable deſire to change their habitations, though they ſeldom ameliorate their ſituations. Nothing but the expectation of better paſture for their cow, can be aſſigned as a reaſon; for their gains, as they are called, which are, ſo many bolls of corn, potatoes planted, and lintſeed ſowed, &c. are the ſame every where in this corner of the country.

Stipend, Poor, &c.—The value of the living, including the glebe, is about L. 115 Sterling. The King is patron. The church was rebuilt in 1765, has lately been ceiled, plaſtered, and flagged, and is now a very handſome country place of worſhip. The manſe is new built, and, for the credit of the heritors, a very good one.—There are only 9 perſons on the poors roll; 2 or 3 more receive occaſional charity. The weekly collections don't exceed L. 10 a year. The half of which is appropriated to the ſupport of the poor. That, with 3 months ceſs, amounting on the whole to about L. 25, is equal to all the demands of the poor at preſent. There is beſides the intereſt of a mortification of L. 100 Scots.

Prices, Wages, &c.—The price of beef and mutton, is from 3½ d. to 4½ d. the pound, 16 ounces to the pound; veal, from 4 d. to 6 d.; lamb, 5 d.; pork, which is bought, ſalted, and ſent to London by the coopers at Berwick, generally

nerally at 3 s. 6 d. and 4 s. 2 d. the ſtone, 14 lb. to the ſtone; geeſe, from 2 s. 6 d. to 2 s. 9 d. each; ducks and hens, 10 d. each; rabbits, 1 s. the couple; butter, 8 d. the pound; cheeſe, 7 s. the ſtone; wheat, L. 1, 13 s. the Berwick boll; barley, 18 s.; oats, 15 s.; and peas, L. 1, 4 s. All the above articles, 30 years ago, ſold at leſs than half the price. The wages of day-labourers are generally 1 s. a-day in ſummer, 1 s. 6 d. in hay and corn harveſt, 8 d. and 9 d. in winter; carpenters and maſons, 1 s. 6 d. The wages of ſingle men ſervants, L. 6, 10 s. to L. 7 the year; women, L. 3, 3 s. to L. 3, 10 s. The only fuel is coal, brought from Northumberland, between 8 and 9 miles diſtant, at 2 s. 6 d. and 3 s. the load; the hire, 2 s. 6 d. in ſummer, and 3 s. in winter.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The ſtyle of living among the poor people here, is very different from that in England; and the earnings of the women, added to thoſe of the men, make a more conſiderable ſum than that ſtated in the account of the poor in England; and hence the induſtrous and œconomical among them, bring up their families, when in health, very decently, without any aſſiſtance from the pariſh funds. The people are all of the ordinary ſize, except the pariſh ſchoolmaſter, who is computed to be 7 feet 4 inches high; his trunk is very large, his legs long, but not well made; there appears a weakneſs in them, and in his knee joints, ſo that he walks badly. He is very unwieldy, looks unhealthy, and is only 25 years of age. He is very gentle in his manners, good humoured, and obliging. He teaches Latin, mathematics, arithmetic, writing, and Engliſh, very well; has a very numerous ſchool, above 60 ſcholars, and gives very general ſatisfaction.—The people are in general very ſober, induſtrous, and œconomical. There is a moſt material change

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to the better, both in living and dreſs, within theſe 20 years. There is no remembrance of a murder or a ſuicide having been committed.—The roads are tolerably good. One, which leads to Berwick from the weſt part of the country, is excellent. The croſs roads will ſoon be good, as the funds are conſiderable, there being above L. 80 Sterling collected annually for ſtatute-labour. The produce of one toll already in the pariſh, and another ſoon to be erected, will be above L. 300 Sterling a-year.—In the year 1782, meal was ſold to the poor people at reduced prices, for which the opulent chearfully contributed.—Mr Philip Redpath, the late miniſter, was a man of great worth and learning, and well known for his tranſlation of Boethius.

NUMBER XXVII.

PARISH OF KILSPINDIE,

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By the Rev. Mr ANTHONY DOW.

Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, Air, &c.

THERE were originally two pariſhes, Rait and Kilſpindie, and the walls of the church of Rait are ſtill ſtanding. I have not been able to learn, at what time the two were united; only this much I have been able to trace, that it muſt have been prior to 1634. *Kil* is Gaelic, and always ſignifies a burying place or tomb. When a ſaint was buried, the place was generally called by his name, with the ſyllable *Kil* prefixed. The pariſh is ſituated in the county of Perth, in the preſbytery of Perth, and Synod of Perth and Stirling, about mid-way between the two towns of Perth and Dundee, the road between theſe two places running through the ſouth ſide of the pariſh for 3 miles. Its form is oblong; in length from S. E. to N. W. about 5 miles; in breadth from S. W. to N. E. about 3½. The pariſh is bounded on the S. E. by Errol, on the S. W. by Kinfauns, on the N. W. and N. by St Martin's and Collace, and on the E. by Kinnaird. Though the church and manſe are ſituated in the Carſe of Gowrie, yet a very

ſmall

ſmall proportion only of the pariſh lies in the Carſe. It moſtly extends acroſs the hills to that part of Strathmore, which goes by the name of Stormount. The hills are generally barren; in many places the ſurface is covered with a ſhort heath, wet, and full of thoſe whiteiſh or gray whinſtones, which indicate a poor, unkindly bleak ſoil. The bottom is a very bad ſort of clay, commonly called by the farmers here Mortar or Till. But though in general the ſummits of the hills are barren and heathy, there are many pleaſant little ſpots in hollows and glens, where the ſoil is good and fruitful in a high degree. All thoſe parts of the hills which ſlope towards the Carſe, are well cultivated, and to the very ſummit; producing crops of every kind that is to be found in the low country, and nearly of equal quality; flax, potatoes and turnip, in much greater perfection. That part of the pariſh which lies in the hollow of the Carſe, is generally very wet, but of a deep rich ſoil, a mixture of clay and moſs, producing in good ſeaſons, and when well managed, very luxuriant crops. The air is tolerably dry and healthy in general. In ſome of the loweſt parts, it is rather moiſt and damp, but among the hills very cold and penetrating. In the hollow grounds, all through this Carſe, the ague was formerly a very prevalent diſtemper, but is now hardly known, owing, no doubt, in ſome meaſure, to the draining of the grounds. Rheumatiſm is the moſt common complaint.

Population, &c.—I have reaſon to believe the numbers were formerly much greater than now. The return to Dr Webſter was 828. No farther back than 30 years, it is known to many of the inhabitants, that in one diſtrict there were between 20 and 30 families more than are now upon it. Inſtead of being divided into ſmall ſpots, pendicles, or farms of a few acres, it is at preſent in the hands

of

of one or two farmers. On one or two more farms, the number of cottagers has alſo been diminiſhed. The number of ſouls I found in Auguſt 1789 to be 718. Males 340, females 378. In one village are 170, and in another 60 ſouls.

Average of births for 5 years, from December 1735, to December 1740, is - - - 35
1745, - - - 32
1750, - - - 34
1755, - - - 31
1760, - - - 23
1765, - - - 25
1770, - - - 22
1775, - - - 18
1780, - - - 15
1785, - - - 16
to December 1790, - - - 19

Average of deaths for 7 years, from December 1783 to December 1790, is 17 or 18. Average of marriages, from 1770 to 1780, is 6. From 1780 to 1790, 8. Taking the average of births for the laſt 7 years, from December 1783 to December 1790, the number is exactly the ſame as for the laſt 5 years, 19, and of burials, as above, 17 or 18. The reaſon why the average of deaths goes no farther back than to 1783, is becauſe there has been no regiſter of theſe kept, previous to the act in 1783, appointing a tax of 3 d. to be levied on each burial, &c. The births mentioned are not exactly thoſe within the pariſh; for all the children that have been baptiſed here, whether born in it or not, have their names inrolled in the regiſter here; ſo alſo it is with regard to burials. With reſpect to marriages, they are all recorded, whether only one or both parties have been within the pariſh. Hence all thoſe marriages, where the parties have been proclaimed in two different pariſhes,

are

are twice regiſtered. There are 68 ſouls under 10 years of age, only 1 above 90. There are 7 heritors, none of whom reſide; 15 farmers, employing each 2 ploughs, or more; 7 or 8 ſmaller farmers, who have only 1 plough; 45 weavers, all employed in working ſale linen, commonly coarſe, what is called Oſnaburgs; they all work for ſome manufacturer, either in Perth or Dundee, and do little on their own riſk; 4 blackſmiths, with 4 apprentices; 3 ſhoemakers, only 1 apprentice; 4 houſe and cart wrights, with 2 apprentices; 4 tailors; 6 meal-millers, at as many different mills; 2 maſons; 3 gardeners, only 1 of whom is employed in a gentleman's garden; 2 diſtilleries, employing 5 men; not above 8 or 10 houſehold ſervants; 111 labouring ſervants, male and female. Threſhing mills having become already wonderfully common through this country, fewer cottagers are employed in the barns, threſhing, &c.; 14 families are Seceders (Burghers and Antiburghers); 2 or 3 Epiſcopalian Nonjurants, who all now attend in the Eſtabliſhed Church, ſince the death of their clergyman; only 1 Roman Catholic; 65 bachelors, taking all the unmarried men above 21 years of age; 115 married or widowers. Each marriage produces 3 children alive, at an average; but if all thoſe dead were to be included, the average would amount to 4. Only 2 uninhabited houſes before Martinmas laſt; 149 inhabited houſes, not quite 5 to each.

Agriculture, &c.—Between 2000 and 3000 acres are ſuppoſed to be employed in raiſing corn, &c. and farms are from 4, 5 and 6 ploughs, to little pendicles of 2 acres; which laſt are ploughed, &c. by the great farmers, the ſubtenants being bound for harveſt work in return. From the beginning of February to April, peaſe and beans are ſown; from the end of April to the end of May, barley; wheat

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in the end of September, October, and beginning of November. It is generally obſerved of the Carſe farmers, that they continue ſowing wheat as long as the ſeaſon will allow; but I have never ſeen any ſpring-wheat here. This laſt autumn there has been more wheat ſown in this Carſe, than ever was known in one ſeaſon in the memory of man. Autumn 1789 was remarkably wet and rainy, and the farmers could not in many places catch a ſingle day to ſow even their fallowed ground. They depend upon their wheat crop for paying the landlord, and they ſeem determined to make up in this, what they fell ſhort in laſt ſeaſon. The wheat harveſt generally begins the end of Auguſt, and continues all September; oats, barley and peaſe in September and October; and beans in October, or beginning of November frequently. Carſe ground lets from L. 1, 15 s. to L. 2, 15 s. the acre; hill ground from 15 s. to L. 1, 15 s. The ſize of farms is very different, from 40 to 250 acres, and their number is greatly diminiſhed. Ploughs are between 60 and 70, drawn by 2 horſes, all over the low grounds; but through the hills, by 2 horſes and 2 oxen, except on 3 farms, where the 2 horſe-plough is uſed. The plough which is now univerſally uſed here, is much after the make of Small's. On one or two of what are called the Brae-farms, that is, the farms on the ſlope of the hills, where the ground hangs, they often yoke 3 horſes a-breaſt. The middle horſe, the leading one, being before the 2 ſide-horſes, by the length of the head and neck, which makes a very ſtrong plough, but kneads the ground very much for the 6 laſt ploughed furrows of a ridge. The grounds are generally uninclоſed; there are no ſtones to build fences; and hedges neſtle ſuch a number of ſmall birds, that they are generally diſliked. No body ſends out cattle without a man or a boy to attend them. The people ſeem ſo much accuſtomed to open grounds, that they ſeldom think

of

of incloſures. However, the farmers are all convinced of the great utility of incloſures, and would univerſally prefer an incloſed and ſubdivided farm, to one wholly open.

Stipend and Poor.—The average value of the living here is about L. 77 Sterling. The glebe lies detached in ſeveral different places, and ſome part of it is a rugged bank; but there are 6 or 7 acres of it of a tolerably good ſoil, that might give L. 1, 15 s. or L. 2 the acre.—There are only 2 old men, without wife or children, who are wholly ſupported by the pariſh, though 9 other poor families receive occaſional relief, for which the collections at the church have hitherto been ſufficient.

Prices, Wages, &c.—Beef generally ſells at 4 d. the pound, veal 5 d. mutton 3 d. fowls 1 s. and 1 s. 2 d. butter 9 d. wheat L. 1, 1 s. barley 14 s. oat-meal 14 s. the boll. Day's wages are 1 s. generally; but 1 s. 3 d. and 1 s. 6 d. in harveſt, without diet. When they receive their diet, the wages are from 8 d. to 1 s. Fuel is whins, broom, and coals from the frith of Forth, at the rate of 3 s. 9 d. or 4 s. the boll, weighing 52 Dutch ſtones, beſides carriage from the harbour. Servants wages in this country have riſen to a moſt alarming height. The men from L. 7 to L. 15, 15 s. a-year, with 2 pecks of meal a-week, and 9 d. a-week for milk or beer; women from L. 2 to L. 3, with their victuals. The men-ſervants, with all their enormous fees, are diſobliging, perverſe and obſtinate, refuſing to work more than 6 hours in the forenoon, and 4 in the afternoon. They have no idea of ſubmitting to any little œconomical employment at a winter fire-ſide. Bid them mend a corn-ſack, and they will fly in your face.

Miſcellaneous

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The roads are at preſent very bad and narrow. They have never been ſufficiently made; but now worſe than ever, as the new turnpike-road, in a very different direction, engages the whole attention of the gentlemen. Till lately, the ſtatute-labour was all exacted in kind, but now is generally commuted; no turnpikes as yet, though we expect enough of them ſoon. Of late, there has been in this, as in ſome other counties, a ſort of outcry againſt turnpikes, though I believe the moſt ſenſible and conſiderate are ready enough to agree, they may turn out much to the advantage of the country in general, and to the intereſt of the farmers in particular.—The vulgar in moſt part of this country, and particularly here, have an utter diſlike to all regular phyſicians and ſurgeons, though in general, their faith in drugs, quack medicines, and old wives noſtrums, is moſt implicit. In my attendance upon the ſick, my firſt queſtion has generally been, when I found the diſorder dangerous, whether a phyſician had been called; and though I have always adviſed it, I do not remember that in any inſtance I have ſucceeded.—Common people in the Carſe are in general rather tall, ſtrong and clumſy in perſon; dull, obſtinate, rude and unmannerly; fond of dreſs to an extreme; live well. The better ſort of farmers, luxurious and expenſive in their mode of living, without the leaſt claim to neatneſs or elegance.—The numbers of wild geeſe, that come down in flocks from the high grounds, about the end of harveſt, are very remarkable. More than 1000 have been ſeen in one field. A few ſtraggling geeſe have been killed in the hills.—There is a hill of gravel, a little to the S. E. of the village of Rait, upon the top of which, there are evident marks of ſome old fort or entrenchment. It is much impaired, and on one ſide wholly ruined, by the encroachments of a ſmall ſtream that runs at the bottom of it. The common people have no tradition with regard to it.

NUMBER XXVIII.

PARISH OF STRICKATHROW,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR.)

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT HANNAH.

Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, Rivers, &c.

THIS diſtrict is compoſed of two pariſhes, Strickathrow and Dunlappie, united in 1618. The name, *Strickathrow*, according to ſome, is a Celtic compound, ſignifying the 'ſtrath or valley where the King fought.' This pariſh lies in the county of Forfar, preſbytery of Brechin, and Synod of Angus and Mearns, and is bounded by the pariſhes of Dun, Brechin, Menmuir, Lethnot, Edzell, Fettercairn, Marykirk, and Logie. It is about 7 miles in length, and 2 in breadth, lying S. E. and N. W.; is low in the middle, but riſes to each extremity, and comprehends the whole breadth of Strathmore in this place. From the manſe, which is ſituated in the centre of the pariſh, the proſpect is every way extenſive, particularly towards the eaſt, extending in that direction upwards of 20 miles. The pariſh is not much incloſed, but the face of the country is uncommonly pleaſant. The ſoil is various; on the S. it is clay, pretty deep; in the middle, black earth, ſharp, but not deep, with a channel bottom; on the N. it is

partly clay, and partly loam, and the hills on either ſide are covered with heath. The air is generally dry, and wholeſome; though there are in ſeveral places, marſhes and waſte grounds. The pariſh is remarkably well watered. A large rivulet, called the Crook, enters it on the W.; on the N. it is bounded by a conſiderably larger ſtream, called the Weſt-water, which, about half a mile from the church, joins one ſtill larger, called the Eaſt-water; and theſe ſoon joining the Crook, they form altogether the river Northeſk. Theſe waters are well ſupplied with trout, and in the Northeſk there is a conſiderable ſalmon-fiſhing.

Agriculture, &c.—The productions of the pariſh are principally oats and bear, (commonly called Cheſter), with ſome barley and wheat. Of this laſt very little is raiſed, partly owing to the lightneſs of the ſoil, and partly to an opinion that two crops of other grain are more profitable. The return is various, according to the quality of the ſoil, and the ſtate of improvements, though it generally is from 6 to 10, and may be eſtimated, at an average, 7 after 1. In 1784, a field, containing 7½ acres, yielded upwards of 90 bolls meal; it was indeed the firſt crop after lime, and that year the crop was good every where. Flax, for which the ſoil ſeems to be generally adapted, is raiſed to a conſiderable extent, and is uſually the ſecond crop after ley. Eight pecks of ſeed are ſown on each acre, and the return is 32 ſtones dreſſed lint, but this depends on the ſtate of the ground. An acre of lint, ſold on the foot, brings from L. 10 to L. 14. The flax, which the farmer raiſes and ſpins in his own family, brings him about L. 1, 2 s. the ſtone; when he gives it out to be ſpun, he pays at the rate of 1 s. 1 d. the ſpindle. A farmer of this pariſh has attempted to raiſe white clover ſeed, and for 2 years paſt has

has furniſhed the country with ſeed, reckoned ſuperior in quality, and better adapted to the climate than what is imported. The common mode of farming here, is half graſs and half crop, with a field of peas or turnips, but there are many exceptions. The rotation is, 1. oats; 2. bear or barley; 3. oats; 4. a green crop; 5. bear or barley, along with 12 pounds red, and 4 pounds white clover ſeed, and half a boll of rye-graſs ſeed the acre. As ſoon as harveſt is got in, the ground is fallowed or ribbed; and March is generally well advanced, before any ſeed is ſown, but this depends on the ſeaſon. All huſbandry work that requires draught, is performed with horſes, and the ordinary ſort of plough is uſed. Horſes, cows, ſheep, ſwine, &c. are generally of a middle ſize, but the breed of horſes and cows is ſenſibly improving. Black cattle, of a year old, will bring from L. 2 to L. 3 each; this article, and grain, form the two principal commodities of the pariſh, and for theſe there is generally a ready market, the town of Brechin being at the diſtance of 3 miles, and Montroſe 7 miles from this pariſh. New leaſed farms pay at the rate of L. 1, 1 s. the acre of arable land, but this is reckoned dear, the old leaſes being conſiderably lower. Tradeſmen and others who chooſe a ſmall piece of ground for their convenience, pay from L. 1, 5 s. to L. 1, 10 s. an acre. The rent of land has advanced very conſiderably ſince 1751; in that year a farm was rented at 12 bolls of meal, 12 bolls of oats, and L. 4 : 13 : 6 in money, making altogether ſomewhat leſs than L. 20; now the ſame farm is divided into 2, one of which pays L. 86, and the other L. 44 a-year. The valued rent is L. 2614 : 16 : 11 Scots. The real rent cannot eaſily be aſcertained.

Minerals, Fuel, &c.—In the S. E. part of the pariſh is a large bed of limeſtone, which has been wrought for ſeveral

veral years, and ſells at the rate of 1 s. 10 d. the boll. The coal with which the lime is burnt, is imported at Montroſe from the frith of Forth; the uſual price of that neceſſary article is no leſs than 8 s. 6 d. the boll, or 72 ſtone, for Scotch coal, and 1 s. 6 d. the barrel for Engliſh coal. This pariſh producing ſcarcely any peats, the fuel chiefly uſed is turf and broom.—Stone abounds here, but it is of a reddiſh colour, and either very ſoft, or ſo hard as to reſiſt the chiſſel.—There are 2 mineral ſprings, impregnated with ſteel, but too weak to produce any effect.

Prices of Proviſions and Labour.—In 1751, ſeed-oats ſold at 13 s. 4 d. and meal at 12 s. 4 d. the boll, butter at 4 d. the pound, eggs 2 d. the dozen, an ox at L. 2. The wages of men ſervants were L. 1 : 13 : 4, and of women ſervants, L. 1 a-year, and a day-labourer got 2 d. a-day and victuals. In 1790, ſeed-oats and meal were ſold, the former at 15 s. and the latter at 13 s. 4 d. barley at 14 s. and bear at 12 s. the boll, butter at 7 d. a-pound, eggs at 4 d. a dozen, an ox at L. 6. The wages of men ſervants have advanced to L. 7, and of women ſervants to L. 3 a-year, and a day-labourer now has 9 d. and victuals. A girl that ſits at her wheel will earn 6½ d. a-day, at the rate of 1 s. 1 d. the ſpindle.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's returns, about the 1750, the numbers were 529. In 1790, they were 672; 269 males, and 403 females. The cauſes of this increaſe are ſaid to be improvements in agriculture, and the extenſion of trade. By the regiſter for 10 years preceding 1790, the births were 143, the burials 120, and the marriages 56. But there is reaſon to think that the births and marriages are not ſo fully inſerted as the burials, many chooſing rather to forego the advantage of having their marriages

riages and the births of their children regiſtered, than pay the tax; whereas, in the caſe of burials, the mortcloth is always employed, for the hire of which the clerk muſt account to the ſeſſion. The number of children produced from each marriage, at an average, is between 4 and 5. In 1790, the number of deaths was conſiderably greater than uſual, occaſioned by the ravages of a nervous fever, and which raged moſt in marſhy places. There are in the pariſh, 8 heritors, 3 of whom reſide; 27 farmers, and 16 families of tradeſmen.

Stipend, Church, Poor, &c.—The ſtipend is L. 322, 17 s. 4 d. Scots, including L. 30 for communion elements, 13 bolls of oats, 23¾ bolls of meal, and 23½ bolls of bear, the whole not exceeding, at an average, L. 65 Sterling a-year. Of the above, there is a part paid out of the neighbouring pariſh of Brechin. The manſe was built in 1748; and, as this diſtrict is compoſed of two united pariſhes, the miniſter has two glebes, one of 5, and the other of 3 acres, though, as the latter lies at the diſtance of 2 miles from the manſe, it is of little value. The church is little better than a heap of ruins, and has all the marks of great antiquity. In Popiſh and Epiſcopal times, it was the church of the Chantor of the Cathedral of Brechin. In the churchyard are 3 graves, which, according to tradition, are the burial places of 3 Daniſh Generals.—Beſides families who receive occaſional ſupplies, there are 10 poor on the roll; one of theſe is a lunatic, and for ſome years coſt the pariſh L. 10, but the expence is now reduced to L. 7 a-year; the others are maintained in their own houſes. The funds ariſe from the weekly collections, which, on an average, are 4 s. 7 d. the profits of the mortcloth, and the intereſt of L. 187 capital ſtock, amounting altogether to about L. 22 a-year.

Roads.

Roads.—The great roads from Brechin to Aberdeen, and from Brechin to Gleneſk, paſs through this pariſh, and are in tolerable repair; but the road from hence to Montroſe, and the private roads, are a diſgrace to the country. In 1789, an act of Parliament was obtained to repair the roads in this county, by which the ſtatute-labour is converted into money, at the rate of L. 1, 4 s. for every L. 100 Scots of valued rent. The ſenſe of the pariſhioners of Strickathrow, with reſpect to this act, is, that commutation of labour into money is an advantage both to them and to the roads, provided the ſum is moderate; but in the preſent inſtance it is deemed too high.

Antiquities, and Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There is a place in the pariſh called Blackdikes, which is thought to be a corruption of Battle-dikes. This conjecture is ſtrengthened by there being the remains of a camp of an oblong figure, 2 ſides of which are ſtill viſible, lying in the neighbourhood, in the pariſh of Brechin. N. W. from this encampment, at the diſtance of about 3 miles, are 2 hills, forming a part of the Grampian Mountains, called Caterthun, or 'the Eaſt and Weſt Cater,' the one ſurrounded with an immenſe aſſemblage of ſtones, the other with an earthen rampart, both being in a favourable ſituation for a camp. It is very ſtrongly conjectured that this is the place mentioned by Tacitus, where the engagement between Agricola and Galgacus, General of the Caledonians, happened. Under this head, it may be mentioned that, according to ſome writers, the church-yard of Strickathrow was the ſcene of the abject ſurrender of the Crown of Scotland, by John Baliol, to King Edward I. in 1296.—Nature has denied coal to this pariſh, and that want is more ſenſibly felt by a tax of 2 s. the boll upon importation.

Coal,

Coal, however, is reckoned the cheapeſt fuel to be procured, peats being very dear.—The grain produced here is of an inferior quality, and ſells lower than what is raiſed in the more ſoutherly part of the county. Short leaſes may alſo be ranked under this head, though they are not peculiar to this pariſh.

NUM

NUMBER XXIX.

PARISH of JOHNSTON,

(COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM SIBBALD.

Name, Situation, Surface, Soil and Climate.

THE moſt general and probable account is, that the pariſh was ſo called, from its having been the immemorial reſidence and property of people of that name. Johnſtons have been the principal, and almoſt ſole proprietors, and long ago were the only inhabitants of the pariſh. It is ſituated in that part of Dumfries-ſhire, known by the name of Annandale, and belongs to the preſbytery of Lochmaben, and Synod of Dumfries. Its length is 4 miles, and breadth 3, except towards the N. W. from the church, where it extends to the diſtance of 5, and in one place 6 miles. On the N. it is bounded by Kirkpatrick-Juxta, on the E. by Wamphray and Applegarth, on the S. by Lochmaben, and on the W. by Kirkmichael and Cloſeburn. The appearance of the country is flat, with a gradual aſcent towards the weſt. Owing to its flatneſs, this, and a conſiderable tract of neighbouring country, running from S. to N. has got the name of *Dale;* and either becauſe the river Annan runs along it, or becauſe the town of Annan is at

one end of it, it has been called *Annandale.* The ſoil is chiefly of three kinds. The higher lands are generally deep moſs or clay, and on the banks of Annan the land is light and ſandy. Great part, or rather moſt of it, is rich and good, though till of late much neglected, and needs only culture to make it produce the moſt luxuriant crops. Rains are moſtly from the ſouth, and in great quantity, yet the air is not unhealthy to the natives, though delicate ſtrangers complain of it, and indeed generally ſuffer much from it upon their firſt ſettling here. Notwithſtanding the great rains and frequent fogs, the ague ſeldom appears. We have ſometimes putrid fevers, owing perhaps in ſome meaſure to the carrion on which our neighbours in the mountains chiefly ſubſiſt: For when the ſhepherds meet with a dead ſheep, if it will but carry home, it is generally uſed for food; and from habit, they prefer it to ſound and wholeſome mutton. Conſumptions are likewiſe frequent; but the moſt common ailments are rheumatiſms and nervous complaints, eſpecially in the decline of life.

River Annan.—In the river Annan, which bounds us on the eaſt, there is abundance of yellow and ſea trout, common and ſpotted eels *, roches, pars, and ſalmon from 30 to 40 pound weight. When large quantities of ſnow upon the neighbouring hills happen to be ſuddenly thawed, the Annan ſometimes overflows its banks, and does conſiderable damage. When a melting of the ſnow, and heavy fall of rain come together, they generally produce an inundation of this ſort, which is frequently much increaſed by a ſtrong ſouth wind, which blowing in oppoſition to the river, dams up its waters. It ſeldom overflows from rain alone. The moſt remarkable inſtances of the ſwelling of

* Theſe ſpotted eels are here called Rampar Eels. It is ſaid they will attack men, or even black cattle, when in the water.

the Annan ever remembered here, were in Auguſt 1782, Auguſt, September and October 1790.

Population, &c.—From what can be learned, this part of Annandale was once more populous than at preſent. The decreaſe is owing to ſeveral farms being united, and good arable land turned ſolely into paſture, on the largeſt eſtate of the pariſh. Of late, however, the farms there have been divided and ſubdivided, and the good effects of this judicious plan are beginning to appear. Land which from neglect, rather than any deficiency of ſoil or climate, was covered with heath, now produces moſt plentiful crops. The ſubdiviſion of farms has enlarged the number of families, and the cultivation of the land now going briſkly on, has increaſed the number of inhabitants at large. The return to Dr Webſter, about 40 years ago, was 494. The number of inhabitants at preſent is 565; males 293, females 272; under 10 years of age, 140; from 10 to 20, 86; from from 20 to 50, 246; from 50 to 70, 79; from 70 to 100, 14. The oldeſt perſon is a woman, aged 96; the reſt are all below 90. Indeed, there are only other 2 who exceed 80. There are 38 farmers, 5 weavers, 2 ſhoemakers, 2 blackſmiths, 4 tailors, 3 wrights, 1 miller, 5 maſons, 7 apprentices, 5 female houſehold ſervants. The farmers, at an average, have a male and female ſervant each, beſides a boy or a girl for taking care of their cattle. One ſtudent of medicine. Only one foreigner, native of Jamaica. One born in England. The heritors are 4 in number, 2 of whom are what are called portioners, having a ſmall property. One of theſe portioners is the only reſiding heritor. The Earl of Hopetoun's reſidence here is always ſhort. The inhabitants are all of the Eſtabliſhed Church, except 1 Cameronian, 10 Antiburghers, and 12 Relief Seceders,

ceders. Houſes are 122, all inhabited; at full 4½ perſons to each.

Agriculture, &c.—The field productions are chiefly oats, ſome rye, a little bear and barley, and here and there a few ridges of peas. No wheat nor beans; nor have turnips, till of late, been ſown in the fields, though now becoming common. Every farmer raiſes potatoes for the uſe of his family; generally ſome likewiſe for feeding ſwine and black cattle, but chiefly the former. A few years ago there were no fruit-trees in the pariſh, nor are there yet any deſerving the name. A very fine young orchard is now planted at Raehills, at the manſe, and ſome other places. Foreſt-trees are nearly as ſcarce; but from the names of many places, ſuch as Lochwood, Woodend, &c. where there is now very little wood, it is evident, that this, like moſt parts of Scotland, once abounded in trees. Beſides former plantations, 150 acres were planted laſt winter by the Earl of Hopetoun. Sheep, which were once ſo plenty, are now reduced to about 1500, and ſucceeded by horſes and black cattle. The ſheep are moſtly ſtill the common black faced Scotch ſheep. Indeed the only exceptions are thoſe at Raehills, part of which are of Spaniſh breed, and the reſt a croſs breed, known in this country by the name of Long Sheep. Cows and horſes are rather more numerous than formerly, there being 295 cows, and 111 horſes, the latter almoſt ſolely for huſbandry, with a few young ones, partly for ſale, and partly to keep up the old ſtock. Beſides the milk-cows already mentioned, there may, at an average, be 450 black cattle, part fattening, but moſt only rearing. There is a ſtrong prejudice prevails all over this country againſt horned cattle. They bring at leaſt 10s. a-head leſs than thoſe without horns, of the ſame weight and quality, probably becauſe the age of horned cattle cannot

not be miſrepreſented; whereas a dealer can aſſert thoſe without horns to be of any age that beſt ſuits his purpoſe. There are 6 labouring oxen at Raehills. During the 5 laſt years, there have been annually ploughed, at an average, 850 acres, moſt of which is employed in raiſing oats. Perhaps an 8th or 9th part is ſown with bear, barley, rye, peas, &c. Next to oats, bear is the ſtaple grain here. Rye holds the next place. Our peas and flax take but little room. The land on which they ſow bear, barley and rye is generally the potato and turnip ground of the preceding year. The ſowing of graſs is a new piece of huſbandry with us, and is ſtill in its infancy. There were 40 acres ſown with artificial graſſes laſt ſeaſon. As the land is only beginning to be improved, the paſtures are but poor, and muſt be extenſive; they comprehend all the remanent parts of the pariſh, excepting what is taken up by roads and plantations. The commonty, which was very conſiderable, was divided not long ago. In ordinary ſeaſons, the farmers are employed from the middle of March to the middle of April, in ſowing oats; in the end of April they plant potatoes. Such as ſow barley and graſs-ſeeds, do it early in May, though ſometimes the graſſes are ſown later. Towards the middle of July, they begin to cut their rye-graſs and clover. Meadow hay is about a month later in ripening. September is uſually the harveſt month for barley and oats; but in ſome untoward ſeaſons, there is often a good deal to cut down at the commencement of October. The whole rental is ſaid to be at preſent about L. 1300; but owing to the improvements now going on, it muſt ſoon be more than double. Beſt arable and paſture land is ſaid to rent from 8s. to 12s. the acre; inferior, from 3s. to 6s. Average ſize of farms is 160 acres, and their number is much increaſed theſe laſt 10 years. Moſt of our farmers have 2 ploughs a-piece; one ſtrong and heavy, for breaking ley, heath,

heath, &c. and another lighter, for ploughing ſtubble, fallowing, &c. They are all the common Scotch plough, excepting 2 or 3 belonging to Lord Hopetoun, with pot-metal glebe boards. Theſe can never be common here, as our land is ſtony and uneven. In general, the farmers have 2 carts each. At Raehills (ſo called from its having been long ago kept as a deer park by the family of Annandale) there are a few deer, between 20 and 30, lately placed there by the Earl of Hopetoun. About as many goats are to be ſeen in an adjoining paſture. A great part of the pariſh has been incloſed ſince the preſent Earl came to the management, and it is his Lordſhip's intention ſoon to incloſe moſt of the remainder. The people are not very fond of incloſures, as they think it troubleſome to keep their cattle off the young hedges, and complain that theſe incloſures oblige them to take round about roads, every time they ſtir from home. But they will ſoon be univerſally ſenſible of the advantages to be derived from them. The more conſiderate are ſo already.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The value of the living may be about L. 80 Sterling a-year, manſe and glebe included. The patron is the Marquis of Annandale; but the Earl of Hopetoun, as curator at law, preſents in his name. The church was built in 1733, the manſe in 1735, and has much need of being rebuilt.—We have two public ſchools, one in the eaſt, and the other towards the weſt end of the pariſh. The maſters in both are very well qualified to teach the branches of education they profeſs, viz. writing, reading, arithmetic and book-keeping. The ſcholars in each are about 30 in winter, and 20 in ſummer. Their ſalaries are different, the one having 200 merks, the other 150. Their fees for reading, 1 s. a quarter, (and although they write, pay no more), arithmetic 1 s. 6 d. for a courſe of book-keeping 10 s.

10 s. 6 d. The want of a grammar-ſchool for claſſical education is ſenſibly felt.—None of our poor go a-begging, and none, ſo far as I can trace, have died for want. There are at preſent on the roll 18 perſons. The intereſt of mortified ſums for their relief amount yearly to L. 12 0 0
Our weekly collection, &c. amount at an average, to - - 9 0 0

Making in all for the relief of the poor, L. 21 0 0

When a perſon on the poor's liſt dies, the ſeſſion conſider themſelves as entitled, in name of the ſurviving poor, to whatever furniture, clothes or effects the deceaſed may have left, although we do not require them on admiſſion to ſign any deed to that purpoſe. What they leave is ſeldom claimed by the ſeſſion, but being for the moſt part of little value, is commonly given to ſuch of their indigent relations or neighbours as were kind and attentive to them in their laſt illneſs. Beſides the reſources already mentioned, it may be proper to ſtate, that few years paſs without moſt generous and well judged preſents to our poor from the Hopetoun family. Nor is this the only pariſh which experiences their bounty. Wherever they have property, and in many pariſhes where they have none, the poor are the objects of their frequent beneficence.

Prices, Wages, &c.—There is no market for butcher-meat in the pariſh. The ordinary way of being provided in it is, for a family, or different families united, to buy a whole bullock, or ſheep, or ſow, &c. Of the two market-towns neareſt us, the one is 6, and the other 10 miles off. When we do ſend to either of theſe, we generally pay for beef and mutton 6 d. the pound, Engliſh weight; lamb is commonly a little dearer. The following articles can be had in the pariſh: geeſe at 3 s. each, ducks 6 d. hens 6 d. ſometimes

ſometimes 8 d. butter at times 8 d. oftener 9 d. Scotch weight, or 24 oz. the pound, ſkimmed milk-cheeſe 3 d. the pound, ſweet milk ditto 6 d. Scotch weight. Barley and oats always fluctuating; average price of the former, L. 2, 10 s. ditto of the latter, L. 2, 2 s. the Moffat boll.—The ordinary hire of a day-labourer is 6 d. in the ſhort days, and 8 d. when the days are long, with their meat, or 10 d. and 1 s. without victuals; tailors 8 d. though till of late only 6 d. with victuals; carpenters and maſons 1 s. a-day, with meat, or 1 s. 6 d. without it. This ſo long as there are 12 hours of day-light; when leſs, their wages are reduced 2 d. a-day. For peat and hay-making, men 8 d. women 4 d. with their meat.—The fuel commonly made uſe of is peat and turf; theſe are to be had in great abundance in the pariſh. The average expence of a labourer, who has a family, is about L. 15 a-year. Houſe-rent is from 12 s. to L. 1. His wages, and other advantages, enable him, with œconomy, to bring up in a very decent manner a family of 5, 6, or even more children; for beſides what he earns, his wife has it often in her power to pay their houſe-rent, by working occaſionally to the farmer from whom they rent it. The farmer too conſiders it as his own intereſt, to allow them as much ground for potatoes, as their aſhes, &c. can manure, to lead out their aſhes, and to plant, and in harveſt to raiſe their potatoes with his own plough. A part of his agreement with them likewiſe is to bring home their peats; for this he is recompenſed by occaſional labour, which ſeldom prevents the cottager from earning his day's hire.—Another circumſtance in favour of ſuch families is, their being ſoon relieved from the burden of ſupporting their children; for although we have no manufactures for the employment of very young ones, yet ſo ſoon as they reach 7 or 8 years, they can all be employed, at leaſt during ſummer and harveſt, in tending cattle; for this

they

they receive board and lodging, and an hire proportioned to their age, and the number of cattle they have to attend, generally 12 s. or 14 s. The average hire for ploughmen is from L. 7, to L. 7, 10 s. a-year; for an half grown lad, to drive the plough, threſh, &c. L. 5; female ſervants for huſbandry, L. 3, or L. 3, 10 s. There are but very few ſervants kept ſolely for domeſtic purpoſes.

Ruin.—The only ruin worthy of notice is the caſtle of Lochwood, which was the reſidence of the family of Annandale. It is ſituated in the north end of the pariſh, commands a very extenſive proſpect, eſpecially towards the ſouth, and is ſaid to have been built in the 14th century. It muſt formerly have been a place of great ſtrength, having had prodigiouſly thick walls, and being ſurrounded by unpaſſable bogs and marſhes. It was this circumſtance made King James VI. ſay, that 'the man who built 'Lochwood, though outwardly honeſt, muſt have been a 'knave in his heart.'

Eminent Men.—This pariſh has the honour of having given birth to Dr Rogerſon, firſt phyſician to the Empreſs of Ruſſia. His father was one of the Marquis's tenants, and rented one half of the farm of Lochbrew, in the ſouth end of the pariſh, where the Doctor was born. The other half was at the ſame time rented by William Halliday, another farmer, whoſe ſon, Dr Matthew Halliday, is likewiſe one of her Imperial Majeſty's phyſicians.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The inhabitants are rather above the middle ſize; but I never heard of any of them exceeding ſix feet two inches. Their dreſs, diet, and lodging, are much amended within theſe twenty, or even ten years. They ſeldom live beyond their income.

Sympathy

Sympathy is a ſtriking feature in their character. Before the Union, and for ſome time after it, the inhabitants of Annandale, like other Borderers, were riotous and quarrelſome. Now they are a ſober, harmleſs people, and by the encouragement given them, have of late become induſtrious. Emigration was frequent till within theſe 9 years; but there is now employment found both for the pariſhioners and for ſtrangers. Only 2 have inliſted in the army ſince the 1785. None have entered into the navy, nor gone to ſea. They are beginning to taſte the ſweets of induſtry and active virtue, and it ſeems hardly poſſible to deviſe a better plan for ameliorating their ſituation, than that which Lord Hopetoun is carrying on. Not very long ago this pariſh could not ſupply itſelf with proviſions; at preſent there is abundance for home conſumpt, and a little for exportation. Forty-three new houſes have been built within the laſt 10 years.—Moſt of the landed property in this country is entailed, and therefore never in the market.—The great road through this pariſh from Moffat to Dumfries, is in good repair. Statute-labour is commuted. No turnpikes in the pariſh. St Ann's bridge over Kinnel water, 13 miles from Dumfries, and 8 from Moffat, was built by the preſent Earl of Hopetoun, in 1782.—One of the chief diſadvantages is the great diſtance from coal; the neareſt fuel of this ſort is at Sanquhar, at leaſt 30 miles off, and the road very bad. Douglas coal is farther off; but as the road to it is better than that to Sanquhar, it is found eaſier both for men and horſes to bring coal from thence. There is plenty of moſs in the pariſh; but every thing conſidered, peats are always got at a great expence, and in wet ſeaſons can hardly either be ſufficiently dried or brought home. Lime is 18 miles diſtant.—There are no profeſſed inns or ale-houſes; but there are 4 houſes in different quarters, where ale and ſpirits can be bought by retail. Few

and ſmall as theſe are, I believe they rather do harm than ſervice.—About 10 years ago, a woman cut her throat.—Cottagers are never employed in agriculture, but on particular occaſions, when more hands are required than the farmers can afford to keep through the year. No eagles have ever been ſeen in this pariſh, though in the Highlands, in the near neighbourhood, they are ſometimes to be met with. We have partridges in great abundance; in the weſt end of the pariſh grouſe are common; the black-cock too, has there ſometimes been ſeen. We are likely to have more of theſe ſome years hence; for, according to naturaliſts, corn and young plantations always attract them. Herons are to be ſeen through the whole year on the banks of the Annan. Beſides the cuckoo and ſwallow, we have an annual viſit from the bullfinch, who makes great havock of gooſeberries and currants in May. The wood-lark and fieldfare are very common.

NUMBER XXX.

PARISH OF CRIECH,

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By MICHAEL GREENLAW, *D. D.*

Name and Situation.

THE name is ſaid to expreſs ſomething indelicate to be explained. The pariſh lies in the preſbytery of Cupar, and Synod of Fife, about 6 miles weſt of the eaſt end of the Ochil Hills, which run from the mouth of the Tay weſt, to within a mile of Stirling. It is from S. to N. about 3 miles, and from E. to W. about 2. It is bounded on the E. by Balmerino and Kilmeny, on the N. by Fliſk, on the W. by Abdie and Dunbog, and on the S. by Monimail and Moonzie.

Agriculture, &c.—Farming in this pariſh and neighbourhood is advancing faſt in improvement, conſidering our thin ſharp ſoil. For many years paſt, there was only rough bear, and no barley. But barley now is the ſtaple grain. It is ſaid that Fife exports about 30,000 bolls of it yearly, beſides what it conſumes. And it is neceſſary to import 6000 bolls of oats or meal a-year. The farmers find it more profitable to raiſe barley than oats. For 1 boll of wheat

wheat ſown in this pariſh about 30, or even 20 years ago, there are, at a moderate computation, 10 ſown now. Formerly too, it was full of blacks, and needed to be waſhed before it was ſent to the mill; now, by the attention paid to the ſeed, and the preparing of the ground, good wheat is produced from 8 to 12 bolls, after 1, without any blacks at all. The rents of many farms are doubled, and ſome tripled; yet the tenants pay them, ride better horſes, wear finer clothes, and entertain their friends better than before. Several tenants in this pariſh are become proprietors, by mere ſucceſs in farming, and have far more general knowledge too than they had 30 or 20 years ago. There is 1 flock of ſheep, about 13 ſcore; the wool ſells at between 16 s. and L. 1 the ſtone. The farmers have acceſs to lime, within 10 or 12 miles. The roads are good, and without turnpikes.

Population.—The population of this pariſh is diminiſhed one-fifth in the period of theſe 35 years paſt; which is owing, probably, to 1 village being allowed to go to decay, the union of farms, and the uſe of two horſe ploughs.

Inhabitants, - - -	306	
Males, - - - -	134	
Females, - - -	172	
Males under 10 years of age, - -	33	74
Females, - - -	41	
Males between 10 and 20, - -	33	62
Females, - - -	29	
Males between 20 and 50, - -	46	127
Females, - - - -	81	
Males between 50 and 70, - -	22	39
Females, - - - -	17	
Males between 70 and 100, - -	0	4
Females, - - - -	4	

The

The number of births, in proportion to the number of inhabitants, is increaſed. From a compariſon of the number of births from 1726 to 1736, when the pariſh was more populous, with that from 1776 to 1786, when it was leſs ſo, the proportional increaſe was found to be about one-tenth. The air is good, and the ſituation dry; the practice of inoculating children for the ſmall-pox, is alſo favourable to population. The people are in more eaſy circumſtances, which encourages matrimony.

Stipend, &c.—The ſtipend is between L. 80 and L. 90 Sterling, with $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres of glebe, of a thin ſoil. Colonel Baillie is patron. There are 7 heritors, 5 of whom reſide. —The weekly collections for the poor are very ſmall; but the poor are few in number.—The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is 80 merks, with the intereſt of 2000 merks; the perquiſites are very trifling, and the number of ſcholars ſmall.

Antiquities.—There is a little hill near the church, with the veſtiges of a Roman camp upon it. It has 2 lines of circumvallation; the one is much wider than the other, as an outwork, within a mile of the Tay. There is another of the ſame kind, on a higher hill, weſt of the former; it is likewiſe within a mile of the Tay. This hill is ſeen from the north windows of the Old Town of Edinburgh. The lines about theſe camps are rough ſtones. The higheſt of theſe hills is called *Normans-Law*, or the Hill of Northern Men. The tradition concerning theſe camps is, that when the Normans invaded for plunder, and not for conqueſt, they depoſited their ſpoils there, till they got intelligence of a force being raiſed in the country, that was able to repel them; then they haſtened to their boats in the Tay. Cardinal Beaton's caſtle ſtands by the church of Criech. The tradition is, that the Cardinal kept there a little country

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try ſeraglio. It is defended on one ſide, by a moraſs; and on the other ſide, has had ſtrong outworks. Being much defaced, and ſome of the fineſt ſtones removed, no inſcription can be found to mark its date. There were lately found, in a riſing ſpot of ground near the manſe, 2 brown jars, with their bottoms upwards, and a broad ſtone laid on each, containing human bones. The bones were much conſumed, yet joints, &c. were diſcernible. It muſt have been long ſince they were put there, as burning or in-urning the dead, is not a late practice in this country.

Thunder.—About 18 or 20 years ago, the lightning ſtruck Pitcullo houſe, about 4 miles north of Cupar. It entered in 2 ſtreams; one came down the kitchen chimney, tore off the jack-caſe, and left 3 or 4 black ſpots on the roof of the kitchen, at conſiderable diſtances from each other. A ſervant ſitting in a cloſet off the kitchen, had a large hole burnt in the crown of her head-dreſs. She was ſome hours inſenſible, but recovered. When the ſtroke came, ſhe thought that ſhe was falling into a ſwoon or faint. The other ſtream entered by a fine ſhell-cloſet, ſtripped a few ſhells and ſome froſting off, then went down the ſtone-turnpike, and burſt through the panneling of another room, where was a mahogany table. This table was picked, as if hit with very ſmall ſhot. Here its force was exhauſted.—Thunder broke within a mile of the manſe in ſummer 1789, in a low-lying field of oats. It laid flat the corn for about 15 or 16 yards in length, and 7 or 8 in breadth. The ſtraw that was before green, and full of ſap, became yellow and withered. The earth on the ſpot was ploughed up, though not deep. This field, though lying ſo low, is near the Tay, and water is an attractor.—Four or 5 years ago, a tremendous flaſh, accompanied with a dreadful peal of thunder, killed 2 tradeſmen at Cupar. They were ſit-

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ting in one of the higheſt houſes there, and on the loft immediately above them were ſeveral pieces of old iron. The watch of one of them ſcarcely retained any of its former ſhape. It looked as if it had lain ſome time in a ſmith's furnace. The lightning ſeems to ſpread like ſmall ſhot when near ſpent. There is undoubtedly a ſtrong concuſſion of the air when it ſtrikes. In the room in Pitcullo houſe, the glaſs was all forced out of the windows, though the caſements were not marked. The houſe in Cupar, where the men were killed, had both ſide-walls a little ſplit, and burſt out from the flooring.

Hills.—The hills not only ſhelter, but by the rains waſhing them down in the courſe of ages, increaſe and meliorate the ſoil of the valleys. There is a narrow ſtrath, which runs through this pariſh, E. through Kilmeny, and W. through Dunbog and Abdie, the adjacent pariſhes, which is ſheltered by the Ochil Hills, and the dealers in barley prefer the grain to much that grows in other parts of Fife. The rich Carſe of Gowrie, oppoſite to this pariſh, is ſheltered in the ſame way. It, perhaps, deſerves notice, that the moſt remarkable ridges of hills in Scotland run E. and W. This holds with reſpect to the Grampian, as well as the Ochil Hills. It has been remarked, that the great ridges of mountains in England, extend generally E. and W. too. The ſame has been obſerved of the Alps, of Caucaſus, and Taurus, in Aſia; and of Atlas, in Africa. Beſides affording ſhelter, they are ſaid to prevent the exhaled vapours from going too much N. or S. that there may be a ſufficiency of rain for the inland countries.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There is one Seceder family here, and a few other individuals that are Seceders. It is ſuppoſed they are not increaſing along the banks of the Tay

Tay and Forth, where they were at first most numerous. They, too, are less bigotted now, from the increase of knowledge.—Industry is inculcated both publicly and privately, as one of the cardinal virtues; and indeed it is more easy to persuade to this, than to some other virtues, as the reward of it immediately follows.—Many of our young people leave us, to go to the neighbouring towns of Dundee and Perth, to learn handicraft trades.—There is only one ale-house.—It has been reported, that in a part of the parish of Leuchars, near this, there were a race of Danish shepherds, who kept their sheep as well as themselves in their original state, and produced wool not inferior to that of Shetland; but I am informed, that the people do not keep themselves separate, but intermarry in the neighbourhood; and as to their wool, I do not hear that it is praised. Their sheep are of a small size, and feed on coarse grass or bent. When other sheep sell at 14 s. or 16 s. these people are glad to get 6 s. or 7 s. for theirs.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXI.

PARISH OF DUNBOG,

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By Dr GREENLAW, *Miniſter of Criech.*

Name, Situation, Soil, &c.

THIS pariſh lies low, between 2 hills, and has a pretty large bog or moraſs, one mile long, and about half a mile broad, at the W. end of it, from which the name *Dunbog* has probably ariſen. It is bounded by Monimail on the S. and E.; by Abdie on the W.; by Fliſk on the N.; by Criech on the E.; and is ſituated in the preſbytery of Cupar, and Synod of Fife. Its length is about 3 miles, breadth 2. The greateſt part of the lands is arable, but much of them wettiſh. They produce good barley; great part is capable of bearing wheat; and the tenants are improving in their mode of culture. There is only 1 flock of ſheep, of about 13 ſcore, of a pretty large ſize, brought hither from the ſouthern parts of Scotland.

Population.—Souls,	- - -	235
Males,	- - -	115
Females,	- - -	120
Aged below 10,	- -	48
Between 10 and 20,	-	56
20 and 50,	-	100
50 and 70,	-	26
70 and 100,	-	5

Wages, Cottagers, &c.—A ploughman's uſual wages are from L. 4, 10 s. to L. 8, according to his character for care and ſkill; thoſe of women ſervants, L. 2, 10 s. or L. 3; a good wright or maſon's wages, in ſummer, are 1 s. 6 d. in winter, 1 s. 2 d.; a tailor's, 6 d. or 8 d. with victuals. The people are induſtrious, and there is only 1 ale-houſe. Cottagers generally hold the farmers ploughs, get livery meal, have an acre of land, a houſe, and ſmall garden, and furniſh 2 reapers in harveſt. There are ſeveral threſhing machines here; but they ſeem, as yet, to ſave only a *lot-man*, as he is called, who threſhes for ſo much the boll. Theſe machines are uſeful, when a merchant offers for barley or wheat, and who would not wait the ſlow progreſs of a lot-man; for the machines can threſh 40 bolls in a day.

Church, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The church and manſe are in pretty good order. The ſtipend is between L. 70 and L. 80, with 4 acres of a good glebe. The Crown is patron. There are 3 heritors, none of whom reſide. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is only about 100 merks. The poor are ſupplied by the weekly collections, and intereſt of poors money.

Remarks on the State of the Clergy and Schoolmaſters.—Unleſs a general augmentation of ſtipends becomes an object to perſons

perſons of influence, the clergy of Scotland muſt degenerate. If they become objects of compaſſion, their weight muſt be leſſened, and no reſpectability of character will counterbalance that evil. Should the teachers of religion become meanly thought of, on account of their poverty, religion will ſuffer; and if good morals decline, induſtry, which requires regularity and ſobriety of conduct, muſt decline alſo. The very ſmall encouragement alſo given to ſchoolmaſters, is one of the greateſt evils; for it is not only an unſpeakable loſs to the poor men who teach, but to the riſing generation. There are not a few pariſhes in this neighbourhood, where the ſalary is only 100 merks. Some have L. 100 Scots. But what man fit to teach can live upon this? What knowledge can he communicate? A common tradeſman can live more at his eaſe. Were the encouragement increaſed, though but a little, it would do more good than can be expreſſed. Imperfect teaching of youth is like bad plowing in ſpring, which muſt of neceſſity produce a bad crop in harveſt. The poorer ſort of people are left without a remedy, and muſt ſend their children to the pariſh ſchoolmaſters, ſuch as they are.

NUM.

NUMBER XXXII.

PARISH OF BARRIE,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR.)

By the Rev. Mr DAVID SIM.

Extent, Situation, Soil, Climate, &c.

THIS pariſh is computed to extend about 3 miles from E. to W. and 4 from N. to S. Its figure reſembles the form of a long bow, with its ſtring ſtrained to the utmoſt pitch. The boldeſt ſide of the curve is bounded on the W. and part of the S. by a quick bending of the banks of the river Tay, and on the E. S. E. and part of the S. by a low ſandy ſhore of the German Sea. The flat ſide of the curve is bounded by the pariſh of Panbride on the N. E. and part of the N. and on part of the N. and N. W. by the pariſh of Monikie.—The pariſh is in the preſbytery of Aberbrothock, and the Synod of Angus and Mearns. A high verdant bank, which ſeems once to have formed a ſteep ſhore of the ocean, runs through the whole, from E. to W. giving to the northern diviſion the appearance of a great regular terrace, elevated about 50 feet above the ſouthern part.—The ſoil is various. The lower diviſion is compoſed

compoſed of a thirſty down, which barely ſuffices for the grazing of a few flocks of ſheep and of young cattle, interſperſed with ſome acres of arable land, which, in ſhowery ſeaſons, yield a moderate crop of grain. The upper diviſion is partly light loam, partly generous gravel, and a few fields approach to a deep black ſoil. The mould, though in no reſpect rich, favoured by incloſure in many parts, and aided in general by an enlightened huſbandry, produces crops of wheat, barley, oats, peas, turnip, flax, clover, potatoes, little inferior in quantity and quality to the growth of the ſame extent of land in diſtricts diſtinguiſhed by a valuable ſoil.—Within the bounds of this ſmall pariſh, a diverſity of climate is experienced. The lower diviſion, from its ſandy nature, and the interpoſing banks which hide it from the ocean, though ſometimes covered with hazy fogs, is warm in ſummer, and enjoys a kindly temperature in the winter months. The upper diviſion, elevated above the level of the ſea, is ſenſibly cooler in the warmeſt weather, and in winter feels the almoſt unbroken ſeverity of the winds from the E. and the N. W. The climate is not uncommonly hoſtile to the conſtitution. The inhabitants paid an annual tribute to the ague, while the land continued undrained, and in rainy winters ſome complaints of rheumatiſm are ſtill heard of; but there are no diſtempers ſtrictly local. It will readily be perceived, that a climate, circumſtanced as that of Barrie, muſt be friendly to vegetable productions. An early verdure covers the fields. The ſowing ſeaſon commences about the middle of March, and the corns are generally lodged in the barn-yard before the ſecond week of October. Migratory birds viſit this place very early in the ſeaſon. The pariſh might perhaps claim the appellation of beautiful, did not the ſoil in ſome parts, and the vicinity to the ſea in others, deprive it of the verdure of thriving and copious wood.

Prices

Prices and Wages.—The pariſh is nearly ſupplied with proviſions of its own produce. A few ſtones of butcher-meat are purchaſed from the Dundee market, by a family or two, during the ſummer; but oats, furniſhing the meal, that is the principal article of food, are raiſed in ſufficient quantities. A quantity of wheat and oat-meal is annually ſold at Dundee, and ſeveral hundred bolls of barley are exported, to ſupply the exigencies of ſome of the northern and weſtern counties of Scotland. A number of black cattle, reared and grazed within the pariſh, are yearly carried to England; and ſome oxen, ſtall-fed with turnip, are purchaſed by the butchers of the neighbouring towns. Wheat is generally ſold at L. 1, 1 s. barley at 14 s. oat-meal at 14 s. the boll; beef, mutton, veal, pork, at 3½ d. the pound, of 16 oz.; ducks at 10 d. a-piece; hens at 1 s.; butter at 8 d. the pound, of 22 oz.; cheeſe at 4 s. 6 d. the ſtone; eggs at 3 d. the dozen.—The hire of labourers is 1 s. a-day, from the 1ſt of March to the 1ſt of November, and 10 d. during the reſt of the year, excepting the time of hay-mowing and harveſt, when they are paid at the rate of 1 s. 6 d. a-day. The wages of a carpenter are 1 s. 3 d. of a maſon 1 s. 8 d. of a tailor 1 s. In the above ſtatement, the victuals of the labourers and tradeſmen are included. The average hire of farm-ſervants, when they eat in the houſe, is L. 8 a-year for men, and L. 3 for women. Domeſtic ſervants form no diſtinct claſs. There is not a male or female ſervant in the pariſh, who is not employed ſometime during the year in the work of the field.

Manufactures.—Every houſeholder almoſt is a manufacturer of brown linen. In the foreign markets, the linen ſtamped at Aberbrothock has acquired a high reputation; and it will not be denied, that to the cloth made at Barrie, which has long been diſtinguiſhed for the goodneſs of its materials,

materials, and the ſuperiority of its workmanſhip, the ſtamp of Aberbrothock is indebted for part of its fame. By introducing honour as a prompter to excellence, the manufacture of Barrie has reached its preſent perfection. For more than 40 years, the inſpection of the weaving, by the unanimous conſent of the manufacturers, has been aſſigned to an annual officer, who is allowed to chooſe two aſſiſtant counſellors. The officer, with his aſſeſſors, are eagle-eyed to diſcover every blemiſh. A pecuniary fine, or what is more dreaded, the correction of ridicule, overtakes every one who is in fault. Theſe circumſtances have contributed to fix ſuch habits of attention and accuracy, that inſtances occur of workmen whoſe cloth has not been caſt at the ſtamp-office in a period of 20 years. Excluſive of conſiderable quantities of home-grown flax, the manufacturers uſe yearly of foreign flax, from Riga and Peterſburg, ſeveral tons, amounting in value to more than L. 800. The manufacturers are in number 100. The condition of this uſeful claſs of men might be ameliorated, by inſuring to them at all times abundance of flax at a reaſonable rate, by continuing the encouragement on the linen branch, and by reſcuing the manufactures from a twofold combination of the brown linen merchants, by which they enhance at pleaſure the price of the foreign flax they ſell, and depreſs the price of the cloth they buy.

Population.—At the time of Dr Webſter's report, the numbers were 689. At preſent (1791) the population is 796.

Baptiſms,

Baptiſms, Marriages and Burials for the laſt 10 *Years.*

Years.	*Baptiſms.*	*Marriages.*	*Burials.*
1781	21	4	11
1782	20	5	13
1783	22	5	13
1784	19	1	7
1785	21	3	12
1786	23	7	4
1787	24	5	8
1788	18	7	7
1789	23	7	10
1790	21	3	7
	212	47	92

Excepting 4 or 5 Antiburgher Seceders, and 3 Epiſcopalians, the people in the pariſh are all members of the Eſtabliſhed Church. There are 3 ſtudents of divinity. There are 8 heritors, 3 only of whom reſide.—It may not be entirely foreign to the preſent article, to notice, that by the late miniſter of Barrie, who lived in the pariſh not leſs than 50 years, it was frequently remarked, that dying perſons expired during the ebbing of the tide. With this remark accords that obſervation in Pliny's Natural Hiſtory, (Lib. ii. cap. 98.), quoted from Ariſtotle, who affirms, that 'no animal expires, unleſs during the going back of the 'tide.' To which Pliny adds, 'Obſervatum id multum 'in Gallico Oceano, et duntaxat in homine compertum.'

Stipend, School and Poor.—The living, including the glebe, is ſomething more than L. 80 Sterling a-year. The King is patron. The manſe, though repaired only 10 years ago, is hardly a tolerable houſe. The kirk is an old and ſorry building.—The office of ſchoolmaſter has, for many years paſt,

paſt, been diſcharged by young men of liberal education, who have ſucceſſively come forward to preach, to lecture in colleges, and to fill very reputable departments in ſociety. The annual emoluments are inconſiderable. L. 5, 11s. Sterling of ſalary, L. 2 as ſeſſion-clerk's fees, 5 s. for each proclamation of banns, 10 d. for regiſtering each baptiſm, 3 d. for the regiſtration of each burial, and 1 s. 6 d. a quarter, as the average fees for 40 ſcholars throughout the year, with ſome trifling gratuities, make up the total ſum of the annual income.—The ſum of L. 30 Sterling, ariſing partly from Sabbath day collections, partly from the rent of ſome ſeats in the church, is the only fund allotted for pious purpoſes within the pariſh, and the annual ſupport of the poor. A ſmall portion of the money is yearly applied by the kirk-ſeſſion, to furniſh with neceſſary books a few of the children of indigent parents, who are unable to give them a ſchool education without this aid. The reverſion is diſtributed among the poor. The number on the roll is generally 11. The poor receive the public charity in their own cottages. A begging native has not been known in the pariſh for many years. Beggars from other places abound.

Sheep.—The late inſtitution of the Britiſh Wool Society, gives increaſed importance to the flocks of every diſtrict. The paſtures of Barrie may contain 1000 ſheep. In a country where ſheep are not the ſole object of the farmer's care, an unexceptionable breed can hardly be expected. The ſheep of Barrie have no diſtinct character. A few annual recruits imported partly from Fife, partly from the northern counties, lately formed the mixed race. It was ſuppoſed, that the union of the Fife ewe with the northern ram, would have produced a ſpecies hardy, and at the ſame time fine wool. Diſappointment, as to the latter quality in

particular, has been the reſult of ſome experiments. An introduction of the Engliſh breed ſeemed to promiſe a ſpecies, valuable for wool, and of a large ſize. However, a paſture which affords but harſh graſs and ſcanty ſhelter, was found ill ſuited to ſuch ſheep. The ſmall Fife ſheep, weighing 32 pounds, unites in ſome meaſure the advantages of a profitable fleece and a pretty durable conſtitution, and at preſent appears beſt adapted to the ſoil. It were deſirable, if a breed affording a greater weight of wool could be obtained. Not leſs than 12 fleeces, at an average, produce 1 ſtone of wool. Of the wool, which is generally ſold at 1 s. the pound, is manufactured almoſt every kind of cloth worn in the pariſh; hodden, which is moſtly uſed for herds cloaks, and is ſold at 1 s. 8 d. the yard; plaiding, which is ſometimes ſhaped into a coarſe kind of hoſe, and is ſold at 2 s. the yard; ſey, the common cloth for mens apparel, ſold, when dyed, at 5 s. the yard; timming, camblet for womens gowns, when in colours, are reſpectively ſold at 3 s. and 2 s. 10 d. the yard; blankets ſold at 12 s. the pair, conſiſting of 4 yards; Sabbath day plaids for women, when dyed of 2 or 3 various colours, and containing about 4 yards, at 16 s. a-piece.—The ſcab, from accident, and the rot, from the nature of ſome of the ſheep-walks, are among the number of the diſeaſes to which the ſheep are liable. The preſcription of Dr Anderſon (tobacco oil) has been applied with ſome ſucceſs in the former diſeaſe. Another malady, againſt which no remedy has yet been deviſed, preys on the ſheep here. Among the ſhepherds, it is called the *Bracks*. The autumn is the ſeaſon of its attack. The moſt luſty, and apparently vigorous of the flock, are ſingled out as its victims. It kills in 2 hours from the time it is at firſt obſerved. From the deſcription which the writer has received, exceſs of blood appears to be the probable cauſe of the diſorder. The dead carcaſe is remarkably

markably bloated and diſcoloured, and in a very ſhort time becomes a carrion. The experience of an aged man, who for many years was a ſheep-maſter in the pariſh, affords ſome preſumption, that a preventative may be found to the bracks. He let blood of his ſheep uniformly in the ſummer ſeaſon, and he does not recollect that the bracks at any time thinned his folds.

Remarkable Objects and Antiquities.—In the ſouthern extremity of the pariſh, on the banks of the Tay, ſtand 2 reflecting light-houſes, reared to direct the veſſels trading to Dundee and Perth through the perilous entrance of the Tay. The largeſt, which is ſtationary, is a circular ſtone building erected on piles; the other a moveable wooden fabric, raiſed on rollers. When the two lights are ſeen in one, the pilot may navigate the river without fear. The expence of the lights is defrayed by a ſmall tax on the tonnage of the veſſels which enter the Tay.—The Danes ſeem to have been deſtined, by their misfortunes, to furniſh the only memorable objects of antiquity which Barrie affords. On the eaſtern boundary of the pariſh many tumuli appear. The traces of a camp in their immediate neighbourhood, Carnouſtie, *i. e.* the Cairn of Heroes, the name of an adjoining eſtate, the vicinity of a brook, which is ſaid to have run three days with blood, proclaim theſe tumuli the graves of thoſe northern Marauders who fell in the deſperate engagement, which, according to Buchanan, (B. 6. chap. 50.), took place near Panbride, between the Daniſh troops commanded by Camus, and the Scotch army under King Malcolm II.

Roads and Bridges.—The roads have at no time been much indebted to the improvement of art. The poſt-road between Dundee and Aberbrothock, which for a long period

riod ran through its bounds, was merely a line traced by frequent paſſengers on the ſurface of the ſoil. A new poſt-road, formed 20 years ſince to the northward of Barrie pariſh, has annually engroſſed nearly the ſtatute-labour of the contiguous diſtrict. The ſmall reverſion allotted to Barrie, has been faithfully and judiciouſly applied by a reſident Juſtice of the Peace; but in a light ſandy track, where gravel cannot be obtained without great expence, it may well be conceived, that the repairs effected by a trifling ſum, can neither be permanent nor extenſive. Nature, however, has not been unkind; the roads of Barrie, though ſomewhat fatiguing, are at all ſeaſons dry. Voluntary contributions reared, and have hitherto ſupported, the bridges within the pariſh. A detailed account of the bridges would reflect no honour on the police of the diſtrict.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—Vicinity to the ſea is an obvious advantage to this pariſh. Though it has no formed harbours, the ſurrounding beach affords a ſafe landing place to ſmall veſſels; by which lime, the ſtaple manure, and coals, the chief article of fuel, are imported from the frith of Forth, and ſold at a reaſonable rate. Lime ſhells are delivered from the ſhip at 1 s. 6 d. the boll. Coals, conveyed to the moſt diſtant parts of the pariſh, are bought by the cottager at 6 s. 8 d. weighing 72 ſtones.—But amid the advantages which Providence has already beſtowed, and human improvements promiſe to confer, the pariſhioners of Barrie experience a rigorous aſtriction to a barony mill; a ſpecies of vaſſalage, which they deem an inconvenience of no trivial kind. Legal applications for redreſs have hitherto produced a very partial relief; while, from the unavoidable ambiguity of old papers, the reciprocal ſervices of the millmaſter, and the aſtricted farmer, furniſh a ſource of hourly diſcord;

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while dues are exacted by an unſtamped meaſure, which is no part of the ſtandard of the nation; while a power is lodged with the renter of a hopper, to demand, by a ſolemn oath, an account of every pea, every barley-corn, every grain of oats, which is daily diſtributed to every labouring ſtead, perhaps dropped to every hen. Thus circumſtanced, it will not appear ſtrange, if the people of Barrie look forward to the abolition of thirlage, as a change much to be wiſhed. They are ſufficiently ſenſible, that an adequate compenſation is due to the repreſentatives of thoſe men, who originally reared thoſe accommodations, which have proved ſo eminently uſeful to the community. Keeping this in view, they find themſelves ſtrongly inclined to join in any legal, well-concerted plan, by which they may be relieved from a ſpecies of ſervitude, which has often produced the moſt bitter effects; and has brought along with it, conſequences not only hoſtile to improvements, but even to the beſt intereſts of morality and religion. The multiplicity of oaths introduced into proceſſes relating to thirlage, tend in ſome degree to take off that reſpect to things ſacred, which every true ſtateſman would deſire to preſerve unviolated.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—In general, the people are attached to the trades of their fathers. Farming and weaving are the profeſſions which ſtand higheſt in their eſteem. To other employments, hardly ſo many are inclined as ſupply the ordinary demands of the pariſh. The fine appearance of ſummer fleets on the ſmooth ſurface of the Tay, allures a few boys to a ſea-faring life. Diſſipation is unknown; though the ſhort ſpace of a quarter of a mile preſents to the view of the traveller the whole inns and alehouſes in the pariſh, amounting to no leſs than 4. This aſſemblage, principally deſigned for the accommodation of ſtrangers

ſtrangers journeying between Dundee and Arbroath, muſt not be interpreted to the diſadvantage of the pariſhioners, who are induſtrious in a high degree, and in their money engagements are punctual to a proverb. Vulgar report has ſometimes involved, along with the inhabitants of the ſurrounding country, the people of Barrie in a charge of inhumanity to ſhipwrecked mariners; but more truly may they be characteriſed as dupes, by their compaſſion to 100 pretendedly ſhipwrecked.—The oppreſſion muſt be grievous indeed, which can drive them from their native ſoil. A ſort of *maladie de pais* rivets them to the place of their birth.—Though the houſes, dreſs, ſtyle of living, &c. of the pariſhioners, indicate nothing diſproportionate to their real wealth, a conſiderable alteration in theſe different articles has taken place within a period of 20 years. Inſtead of the turf-built cottages of former days, the eyes of the obſerver are ſometimes pleaſed with manſions, neat, commodious, almoſt elegant. Leeds, Mancheſter, Spittalfields, unite to furniſh the apparel of thoſe who were formerly contented with clothing wholly manufactured on the north ſide of the Tweed. The perſons, however, of this deſcription are not numerous. The bulk of the people are eaſily diſtinguiſhed from thoſe of the ſurrounding pariſhes, by a rejection of the fopperies of dreſs, and a becoming attachment to articles made in their own families. The improvement in the ſtyle of living may be characteriſed, not by a rapid tranſition from ſordidneſs to luxury, but rather by a gradual remove from meanneſs to a comfortable mode of life. A ſtrict attention to œconomy, joined with a pride of inheriting unimpaired their paternal acres, prevents, among the heritors of Barrie, that fluctuation of property which has lately marked many parts of Scotland. Some lands, however, have within theſe few years changed their maſters. The price about 25 years purchaſe.—The ſize of

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the farms can be reduced to no average meaſure. The upper diviſion of the pariſh, which may be properly ſtyled the arable part, is parcelled out among 10 or 11 landholders, 3 of whom are proprietors. Their farms contain reſpectively from 30 to 300 acres a-piece. A happy adjuſtment of things has prevented a monopoly of farms, many of the leaſes preſently current having been granted before the all-engroſſing ſyſtem began to extend its baneful influence. It cannot be denied, however, that when any tack happens to fall, this ſyſtem diſcovers itſelf in miniature, by a marked avidity to join to the former poſſeſſion of a houſe and yard, the ground plot of a razed houſe, and the extent of its attached yard. Along with the mode of labouring with horſes, inſtead of oxen, the number of cottagers in the ſervice of the farmers has been diminiſhed. There is no planned deſign to depreſs cottagers; but ſervants entertained in the houſe, are found more conveniently placed for every exigence, are perhaps leſs expenſive, not leſs active, not leſs diſintereſted, than thoſe who have families of their own. Beſides 12 day-labourers, who have merely houſes and yards, the only claſs of men who fall under the deſcription of cottagers, are thoſe employed by the farmers for threſhing the corns. They receive as wages, the twenty-fifth boll of each kind of grain they ſeparate from the ſtraw, with a dinner each working day. The plough of Small's conſtruction, drawn generally by 4 horſes, and attended by a ſtout lad and a boy, appears well adapted to every variety of ſoil in the pariſh. In a ſmall pariſh, of which not a third part is arable land, the number of ploughs and carts is very inconſiderable. One waggon was made at Barrie in the year 1791. No waggon-road can reaſonably be expected in the pariſh ſooner than the year 1793.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXIII.

PARISH OF EARLSTOUN,

(COUNTY OF BERWICK.)

By the Rev. Mr LAURENCE JOHNSTON.

Name, Situation, Soil, Air, &c.

THE pariſh probably derives its name from being originally the reſidence of the Earls of March, one of whom lived here about the middle of the 13th century. It is by ſome called Arſehilltoun, becauſe the village is in a low ſituation, and almoſt ſurrounded with riſing grounds. However, I take the other to be its true name, and this to be only a corruption of it; for there is no doubt that the family of March lived here at the period above mentioned. The pariſh is about 6 miles in length, from E. to W. and from 3 to 4 in breadth. It is bounded by the pariſhes of Lauder and Melroſe on the W. and S. W.; by Mertoun on the S.; by Smalholm and Nenthorn on the S. E. and E.; and by Gordon and Legertwood on the N. E. N. and N. W. It is ſituated in the weſt end of the county of Merſe or Berwick, in the preſbytery of Lauder, and Synod of Merſe and Tiviotdale. The ſoil is not all the ſame; ſome parts of it are clay, others a light dry ſoil, and other parts are a deſirable mixture of both. And as the

ſoil,

ſoil, ſo the climate is alſo different. It is more mild in the weſtermoſt parts of the pariſh, where the ſoil is generally light and dry, than in the eaſtermoſt parts of it, where the ſoil is ſtronger and wetter. But, notwithſtanding the difference of both ſoil and climate, the people are in general healthy; many of them arrive at old age. The moſt common diſeaſes are agues, rheumatiſms, and ſcrophula. The frequency of the laſt is probably owing to intermarriages. The ague has not been ſo frequent theſe 2 years paſt as formerly; but conſumptive complaints are more common, probably owing to the ſcrophula; as it is moſtly thoſe who are of that habit that become conſumptive. About 14 or 15 years ago, the Honourable Mr and Mrs Baillie, both very humane and benevolent, cauſed inoculate, at their expence, above 70 children in this pariſh and neighbourhood; all of whom did well, except 2, who were of a ſcrophulous habit. Ever, ſince inoculation has been rather more generally practiſed, and has been the happy means of preſerving many lives.

Rivers.—The river Leader runs along the W. end, and the river Eden along the E. end of the pariſh. Both have their ſource in Lammar Muir, and run into Tweed. They formerly abounded with very fine trout, the firſt alſo with ſalmon. But ſince the farmers have ſet about improving their farms, neither ſalmon nor trout are near ſo plenty in either. This is thought to be owing to the liming of the grounds on each ſide of the rivers, which, by heavy rains, is often waſhed down into the rivers, and is ſuppoſed either to ſcare or kill the fiſh.

Plantations—There are large plantations of wood in the E. end of the pariſh, which are a great ornament to that part of the country, as well as a benefit to the adjacent

fields, to which they afford great ſhelter. There are alſo ſtrips and clumps of planting lately made in other parts of it, which, when grown, will add greatly to the beauty of the place, and be a conſiderable benefit to the proprietors.

Population.—At the time of Dr Webſter's report, the numbers were 1197. There are at preſent (1791) 670 males, and 681 females. In all, 1351 ſouls. 653 are of the Eſtabliſhed Church, the reſt are Sectaries. I do not think it has increaſed in numbers of late years. The farms are now much larger than formerly. What uſed to ſerve 12 or 13 farmers, is now occupied by 4, which muſt rather diminiſh than increaſe the number of inhabitants.

Manufactures, Agriculture, &c.—Although the pariſh conſiſts chiefly of villages, yet very few manufactures are carried on in it. The principal one is linen cloth. There are between 40 and 50 weavers looms, moſtly employed weaving linen, and the greateſt part of that cloth is for ſale. We have only one woollen manufacturer, though no place can be better ſituated for carrying on that branch of trade, than the village of Earlſtoun is. Leader runs along the weſt end of it, where there is an extenſive beautiful haugh, and there is plenty of wool, if not in the pariſh, yet in the neighbourhood, to ſupply 20 manufacturers, though they manufactured to a conſiderable extent. Nor can any part of the country be better accommodated with roads. The turnpike between Edinburgh and Jedburgh, goes cloſe by the weſt end of the village, and the great road from Edinburgh to London, by Kelſo, goes within 1½ mile of the eaſt end of it. There are 4 mills in the pariſh, which manufacture a conſiderable quantity of all kinds of grain. Beſides what the inhabitants of the pariſh conſume, they make into meal and barley above 7000 bolls,

bolls, Linlithgow meaſure, every year; all which is carried to Dalkeith and Edinburgh markets. Coal and lime are brought home in return.—There are about 2000 ſheep kept in the pariſh. The farmers alſo rear a conſiderable number of black cattle every year. Beſides theſe, they buy many in the autumn; which, with theſe of their own that are of proper age, they fatten on turnips. They are now beginning to breed horſes. This will probably be the means of lowering the price of that uſeful animal, which, for ſome years paſt, has been very high. Horſes are abſolutely neceſſary in this part of the country, for it is by them the farmers labour their farms, and drive their corn to market. They never work with oxen now, as they uſed to do formerly.—The moſt common crops in this pariſh are oats, barley, and peas. There is alſo ſome wheat every year; but the quantity of it is ſmall, in proportion to the other kinds of grain. Turnips and potatoes are very general, and commonly very good. There is now a great quantity of clover and rye-graſs ſown, and ſome flax for private uſe. The oats that grow on the grounds about Fans, are much eſteemed for ſeed. In ſeed-time, they generally ſell for 3 s. or 4 s. a boll more than other oats, and there is uſually a conſiderable demand for them at that ſeaſon. Of late years the quality, both of ſheep, black cattle, and horſes, has been greatly improved, and their numbers increaſed, owing to the improvements that have been made in huſbandry; and if the farmers continue in the ſame ſpirit of improving their farms, which I hope they will, there is not the leaſt doubt but their black cattle, horſes, and ſheep, will ſtill improve, both in quality and number.—The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 5948 : 13 : 11 $\frac{6}{12}$ Scots. There are about 40 proprietors in it, 3 of whom are freeholders; the others are all feuers or portioners.

Stipend,

Stipend, School, and Poor.—The ſtipend is 112 bolls, half oats, half barley, about L. 34 in money, and a glebe, about 8 Engliſh acres. The manſe was built in 1724, and the church in 1736. The King is patron.—There are 2 ſchools. The parochial ſchool is in the village of Earlſtoun; the ſalary L. 7 : 19 : 5 Sterling; the maſter has alſo the intereſt of 500 merks Scots, mortified for teaching the children of inrolled poor. The other ſchool is in the village of Mellerſtain; the maſter of it has L. 5 yearly ſalary, which is the intereſt of L. 100 Sterling, mortified by the family of Mellerſtain, for teaching a certain number of poor children. There is alſo a Sunday's ſchool in each of theſe villages, patroniſed and ſupported by the Honourable Mis Baillie.—There are many poor people in this pariſh. About 30 are inrolled, who receive a weekly allowance, according to their neceſſities. For this purpoſe, a ſum is raiſed twice a-year, by aſſeſſment on the heritors and tenants. The ſum levied theſe 2 years paſt has been about L. 70 a-year.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The famous Thomas the Rhymer, (whoſe real name and title was Sir Thomas Lermont), was a native of this pariſh. He lived at the weſt end of Earlſtoun, where part of his houſe is ſtill ſtanding, called Rhymer's Tower. And there is a ſtone built in the fore wall of the church, with this inſcription on it, 'Auld 'Rhymer's race, lies in this place.' He lived in the 13th century, and was co-temporary with one of the Earls of March, who reſided here then.

There are 2 fairs held at Earlſtoun. One on the 29th of June, for ſheep, black cattle, and horſes. It is reckoned the ſecond beſt fair in the ſouth of Scotland, both for ſheep and black cattle.—The other fair is held on the third Thurſday of October. It is only for black cattle and horſes.

There

There is often a good ſhow of black cattle in it, but nothing like what is in the June fair. There are 4 public houſes in the pariſh. But on the fairs, almoſt every low houſe is a public one.

One great diſadvantage under which this pariſh labours, is the want of fuel. The common people burn turf and peat. Thoſe in the neighbourhood of Mellerſtain are conveniently ſituated for fire-wood, which they get at a very moderate rate. The better ſort of feuers and farmers burn coal, which is uſually from the neighbourhood of Dalkeith, a carriage of about 24 or 25 miles, which neceſſarily makes the price of coals ſo high, that the poor cannot purchaſe them. Lime is alſo carried about 22 miles, from which it is likewiſe very high priced.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXIV.

PARISH OF KINGSBARNS,

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES BEATSON.

Name, Situation, Soil, Air, &c.

THE pariſh of Kingſbarns originally belonged to Crail, till 1631, when it became a ſeparate cure. I have not been able to obtain any deciſive information as to the origin of the name. The tradition is, that King John uſed frequently to live in a large building called the Caſtle, placed on a ſmall eminence above the beach, and at a quarter of a mile's diſtance, (where the village is now built), had his ſtore-houſes for grain. The remains of the caſtle were taken down ſeveral years ago, and the ſtones were of an immenſe ſize. The pariſh is in the preſbytery of St Andrew's, and Synod of Fife. It lies about 6 Engliſh miles E. of St Andrew's, and is nearly ſquare, being fully 4 Engliſh miles each way. It is bounded on the N. by St Andrew's pariſh; on the W. by Deninno; and on the S. and E. by Crail. The ſoil upon the coaſt is light and ſandy, but now, from proper culture, it bears the ſame grain with the higher grounds, and of equal quality; although the higher grounds are in general deep, ſtrong, black clay.

clay. Being ſo near the ſea-coaſt, it is natural to imagine the air is pure, and upon the whole healthy; though I have often thought the water which comes from the higher grounds, and ſtagnates in the village, occaſions nervous fevers, eſpecially among young people, and makes epidemical diſtempers to rage ſeverely among us. This eaſily might be prevented, as there is a beautiful and gradual deſcent from the ſummit of the higher grounds to the ſea-ſhore, and conduits for the water, at little expence, could be made. The only ſpring worthy of notice, is a ſteel mineral, which, about 30 or 40 years ago, was reſorted to by many diſtreſſed with various complaints. Its taſte and ſtrength are the ſame with the Peterhead water, ſo juſtly famed, but the ſpring much greater; ſo that, at one period, what flowed from it, afforded a ſufficient quantity of water for driving a meal-mill.

Population.—At the time of Dr Webſter's report, the numbers were 871. From the laſt ſtate of the rolls, the numbers amounted to 807, of whom 467 reſide in the village, and the remaining 340 inhabit the country part of the pariſh. For 30 years back, the annual averages have been 16 deaths, 22 baptiſms, and 6 marriages. There are about 24 extenſive farmers, whoſe families amount to 192 ſouls. There are only 11 Seceders.

Wages, Manufactures, Agriculture, &c.—Male ſervants wages, able to hold a plough, are not under L. 5, 10 s. or L. 6, 6 s.; the overſeer is allowed from L. 10 to L. 12 a-year. Maid ſervants wages are from L. 2 to L 2, 10 s. or L. 3. The wages given to labourers hired by the day, in ſummer, are 10 d. or 1 s.; in winter 8 d.—The Oſnaburgh ſheeting, and ſhirting, is the manufacture carried on in the village, which is moſtly bought by the Dundee merchants.

The

The number of weavers is from 20 to 30; and these are the people, at certain seasons of the year, who are also employed in the different fishings. They have greatly the advantage over the fishers in the coast towns to the westward, who, as they are not bred to business, consequently in stormy weather, not only are they idle, but half-starved, while the people here are occupied at their looms, and can earn wages sufficient to maintain their families.—The people in general are industrious, much disposed to humane generous actions, and are well contented with the lot assigned them by Almighty God. The seafaring is preferred to the military life; and there is seldom a season but some of the young men are employed in the Greenland whale-fishing.—The cattle annually reared will amount to 480; 5 or 6 yoke of these were constantly employed in agriculture by each farmer some years ago, but horses are now more generally used. At 3 years old, these cattle are put upon turnips, and fattened for the butcher; the price they bring varies according to their size, from L. 11 to L. 12 or L. 14 each. There is no separate map of the parish, but multiplying the number of ploughs, which are 50 by 50, the arable acres accurately may be ascertained; 16 of these plough-gates furround the village, and each of them pay an annual feu of 9 bolls wheat, 11 bolls of bear, and 8 s. 4 d. The best arable land is let from L. 1, 15 s. to L. 2, 2 s. the acre, and the inferior from 15 s. to L. 1. The valued rent of the parish is L. 6353 : 6 : 8 Scots.

Stipend, Poor, &c.—The stipend, including L. 5 allowed for glebe and foggage, amounts to about L. 85 yearly. The manse was rebuilt about 28 years ago, and since that time, has been once and again repaired. The Earl of Crawford is patron.—The average number of poor who receive weekly from the session is 12; besides these, many indi-

gent

gent families receive occaſionally; and the annual ſum expended for their relief will amount to L. 22, ſome years L. 27 Sterling. Theſe weekly poor are all maintained in their own houſes, and are not allowed to beg from door to door. The kirk-ſeſſion is extremely attentive to give them relief, according to their neceſſities. They provide medical aid for them when ſick, and pay the ſchoolmaſter for teaching their children reading, writing, and the common rules of arithmetic. Beſides theſe advantages, their children have an opportunity of attending the Sunday's ſchool, (eſtabliſhed about 2 years ago), where the young ones are inſtructed in the principles of the Chriſtian faith, and are taught to read and write.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—Some years ago vaſt quantities of haddocks were caught, and ſold at moderate prices; but few have appeared for theſe 3 years. Still a few large and ſmall cod, ſkait and ling, are got, but not in plenty. At certain ſeaſons the lobſter-fiſhing is worthy of attention, and theſe all go to the London market. The poor ſuffer much from the want of herring, as they were the chief part of their winter's proviſion. Early in ſpring and autumn are the ſeaſons when the herring appear; but ſuch as are caught are bought at exorbitant prices by merchants, who cure them, and ſend them up the Mediterranean. —There is no account of any battle or ſea engagements. Upon the ſhore, graves are found lined with ſtones, after the ſame conſtruction they are met with in many places of Scotland, and ſuppoſed to be Daniſh.—The only remarkable wreck upon this coaſt happened in October 1761. After a ſevere ſtorm from N. E. a three maſted veſſel, Daniſh built, was driven aſhore, and ſoon went to pieces; not a human creature was found on board.—On the confines of

the pariſh, limeſtone has been found in abundance. The quarry belongs to the Honourable Henry Erſkine of Newhall, which he has taken into his own hands, and intends working to a conſiderable extent.

NUM.

NUMBER XXXV.

PARISH OF KELLS,

(COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN GILLESPIE.

Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.

THE name is Gaelic, and is probably expreſſive of the ſituation, which is the higheſt in this part of the country. The pariſh lies in the ſtewarty and preſbytery of Kirkcudbright, and Synod of Galloway. It is nearly in the form of an Iſoſceles triangle, almoſt ſurrounded with the rivers Ken and Dee. The Ken runs from N. to S. 14 miles along the eaſt ſide of it. The Dee riſes at the N. W. end, and runs along the W. and S. till it meets the Ken. Its length is about 15 miles; its greateſt breadth, at the N. end, 6 miles. It continues nearly of this breadth for 6 miles S.; then gradually diminiſhes to 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 miles, till it ends in a point at the junction of the two rivers Ken and Dee. It is bounded on the E. by the pariſhes of Parton, Balmaclellan, and Dalry; on the S. by Balmaghie; on the W. by Girthon and Minnigaff; on the N. by Carſphairn. The air is healthful. The face of the country is hilly and unequal. There are large rocky hills on the ſouth end, covered moſtly with heath; ſtill higher hills

hills on the N. W. covered with graſs; a great number of leſſer rocky hills in the interior part of it, interſperſed with large flats of moſs, all covered with heath; here and there is a large ſpot of meadow and arable land. The ſoil on the S. W. and N. is ſhallow, rocky, and barren, fit only for ſheep-walks. Along the burns and rivulets, are ſpots of meadow and arable land. On the eaſt ſide, along the Ken, and for a mile, and ſometimes more, on both ſides of it, the land is moſtly arable, and is either flat or ſloping towards the river. The flats are of a deep rich clay; the ſloping and higher land, of a thin, dry, and kindly ſoil, and improved with dung, the only manure the country affords, yields good crops. Some of it of late has been improved with lime and marl, and fully repaid the expence. The flat land at the head of Loch Ken, conſiſting of 200 acres, is perhaps one of the richeſt ſpots in Scotland. It is of a deep clayiſh ſoil, enriched by the overflowing of Loch Ken, which covers it ſeveral times during winter and ſpring, and, like the Nile, leaves behind it the ſalts, oils, and fat earths, carried down by the Ken; ſo that many acres produce 300 ſtone of natural hay, and the arable is fertile in proportion. Some of it has been cropped 25 times ſucceſſively, without any manure, but what it receives from the inundation of Loch Ken. In great falls of rain, the rivers Dee and Ken riſe near 7 feet perpendicular, by which large tracks of meadow and low land are laid under water. When theſe happen in hay time, or in harveſt, they greatly damage, and often carry away large quantities of hay and corn. They come ſo ſuddenly, that there is no guarding againſt them. But if in winter, which is oftenеſt the caſe, they rather better the land.

Lakes, &c.—There are 6 lochs, beſides Loch Ken, 3 of which, on the north end of the pariſh, are ſtored with trout;

trout; the other 3, on the ſouth end, near Loch Ken, ſtored with pike. Loch Ken is 5 miles long, and from ½ to ¾ of a mile broad. Loch Ken and Loch Dee are but one loch, continued 10 miles long. They abound with pike, trout, perch, eel, and ſalmon. The pike grow to a very large ſize. The head of one, caught with the rod, is preſerved at Kenmore Caſtle, which weighed 57 lb. Some are frequently caught from 20 lb. to 30 lb.; trout and perch, from 1 lb. to 6 lb.; and ſeveral trouts have been taken, weighing 8 lb. They are in the greateſt perfection in May, June, and July. Few are expoſed to ſale. Loch Ken and Loch Dee are navigable. Boats of conſiderable burden are frequently employed in bringing up marl from the Carling-work Loch, and carrying down fir, aſh, and oak-wood, with which this hilly country abounds. There is a ſalmon-fiſhing on the Dee. At its firſt erection, about 30 years ago, it was let at about L. 10. It has never been very productive. There is another fiſhing in this pariſh, claimed as no man's property, that cannot be eaſily eſtimated. I mean a pearl fiſhery. In dry ſummers, great number of pearls are fiſhed here; ſome of great ſize, and fine water, and are ſold from 1s. to L. 1, 1s. according to their ſize and beauty.

Hills.—There is on the ſouth end of this pariſh, a range of high hills, lying from N. W. to S. E. 5 miles in length, and upwards of 3 miles over, of one continued ſolid maſs of granite, almoſt naked, only here and there ſome ſpots of heath. The ſloping ſides of theſe hills, and the flats near them, for a mile S. W. are covered with large maſſes of looſe rock, all granite; ſo thick, that you may almoſt walk over them; and ſo big, that many of them are 10 tons weight. Theſe are not broken pieces of rock, fallen from the hills, for the hills are entire; and if they were, could never have come to their preſent ſituation. The

number,

number, ſize, and ſituation of theſe looſe rocks, are a great natural curioſity. At the end of theſe hills, in the ſame direction, is another rocky hill, containing great quantities of iron-ſtone; but, as fuel is ſcarce, and coal diſtant, it cannot be turned to any advantage. Theſe hills are the natural ſoil for goats. On the weſt ſide, and north end of the pariſh, the hills are ſtill higher, covered with graſs, but of a bad quality. Theſe hills are called the Kells Range, and are ſeen at 40 miles diſtance; ſo high, that there is ſnow upon them for 8, and ſometimes 9 months in the year. They are the very ridge or higheſt land in Galloway, and the middle between the two ſeas on the W. and S. E. As a proof of this, the rivers Ken and Dee, which riſe on the eaſt ſide, run to the S. E. ſea at Kirkcudbright; and the Don, which riſes on the N. W. ſide of theſe, runs to the ſea near Ayr. Theſe are a part of a range of high hills, running from W. to E. by Leadhills, the whole breadth of Scotland. There is a great natural curioſity to be ſeen on the ſide of one of theſe hills. The *Rocking Stone*, of 8 or 10 tons weight, ſo nicely balanced on 2 or 3 points or excreſcences, that it moves from one to the other, by the preſſure of the finger. Captain Groſſe, laſt harveſt, ſent and took a drawing of it; and ſome antiquaries think it has been a Druidical place of worſhip. It ſhould ſeem that the ſtone was formed by nature, juſt as we ſee it; and lying on a ſtrata of moſs, 2 or 3 inches deep, the rains have in time waſhed away this moſs or earth, and left the ſtone reſting on theſe points.

Minerals.—There is a ſlate quarry in the north end of this pariſh, formerly wrought, but, by unſkilful management, has fallen into diſrepute. If ſunk deeper, and ſkilfully wrought, it might be valuable, and ſuperſede the uſe of Engliſh ſlate, brought hither at a great expence. The lead

lead mine on Sir William Miller's eſtate, has never been wrought to any extent. Within half a mile of it, on the ſame eſtate, is the appearance of a copper mine. Some miners, about 12 years ago, paſſing from Leadhills to Minnigaff, obſerved it, and wrought ſome days for a trial; and finding the appearance promiſing, wiſhed to take a tack of it; but diſagreeing with the landlord about the terms, it has been neglected ever ſince. Near the Kenmore, 2 miles further S. there is an appearance of lead. Pieces of the ore have been dug up almoſt on the ſurface. Both theſe are probably a part of the ſame ſtrata of lead, wrought with ſo much advantage at Minnigaff, 18 miles S. W. of this, and might perhaps be wrought with equal profit here.

Animals.—Foxes, hares, wild cats and badgers, find excellent cover in our woods; otters in the banks of our rivers; of thoſe laſt, our ſportſmen, in time of froſt, deſtroy great numbers. There is plenty of black and red game in our moors. Partridges are not ſo numerous as in more corn countries. Tarmagants are on our high hills. Plover and ſnipe in low and marſhy lands. Eagles of a large ſize build on the tops of precipices and high rocks. One killed lately, meaſured from the tips of the wings 7 feet. Swallows and cuckoos make their appearance about the beginning of April; wood-cocks in the latter end of harveſt, when the weather begins to be cold. In a hard winter, flocks of geeſe and ſwans come to Loch Ken; wild ducks and teals are there in great abundance at all ſeaſons.

Population.—At the time of Dr Webſter's report, the numbers were 784. For 10 years paſt, the average has been, marriages 6; births 13. Inhabited houſes are at preſent 180; 73 of which are in the town of New Galloway.

loway. The number of ſouls at preſent is 869; males 438; females 431. Nine wrights, 3 ſmiths, 7 tailors, 13 weavers, 7 ſhoemakers, 4 maſons, 2 millers, 2 dyers, 2 tanners; apprentices 7. Male labouring ſervants 36, female 47; ſtudents at colleges 5. There is 1 ſurgeon, formerly 2. The people are moſtly of the Eſtabliſhed Church, there being only 2 Seceders. The number of inhabitants has greatly decreaſed ſince 1764, occaſioned partly by the too common practice of uniting ſeveral farms into one; partly to the almoſt total diſuſe of cottagers and ſubtenants; partly to the practice of feuing out lands, and building villages on the high roads; and partly to the high rent of ſmall poſſeſſions, which compel the poorer ſort to retire to theſe villages. The proportion between the annual births and whole population is as 1 to 67 nearly. Between the annual marriages and the whole population, as 1 to 145 nearly. Some families emigrated to America immediately before the rebellion of the colonies. Some young people, both males and females, leave the pariſh as ſervants. Several young men of ſpirit go to the Weſt Indies as planters and merchants. Some go to England to puſh their fortunes, as pedlars, and, when ſober and induſtrious, commonly return, after 10 or 12 years, with L. 800 or L. 900, or L. 1000. Several return from the Weſt Indies, after 16 or 17 years, with genteel fortunes; and ſome young men chooſe a ſea-faring life.

Agriculture, &c.—There are between 280 and 290 acres annually employed in raiſing oats; 15 or 16 in bear and rye; between 70 and 80 in potatoes; no wheat; cabbage, turnip, and other roots are only raiſed in gardens; little flax or hemp. Potatoes make a principal article of the food of the lower claſſes of people. Oats are ſown from the middle of March to the middle of April; reaped from the

the 20th of Auguſt to the middle of October. Potatoes planted in March, ready for digging about Lammas. Crops earlier near New Galloway, and along the Ken, than on the mooriſh and weſterly part of the pariſh, by ſeveral weeks, and better filled. Many farms are incloſed; but the great extent and barrenneſs of others, diſcourage the attempt. There are 32 farmers in the pariſh, each of whom have one or more ploughs. Several labouring men have crofts and ſmall poſſeſſions, and each have a plough. The old Scots plough, drawn by 4 horſes abreaſt, is laid aſide, and a lighter one adopted. They break up their ley-ground now with 3 horſes inſtead of 4, and ſometimes with 2, and 1 man ſervant, and in the following crops with 2 horſes. The ploughs in the pariſh are 55; carts 47; carriages 2; no waggons.—The pariſh needs a great deal of more meal, barley and malt than it produceth. There are nearly 17,400 ſheep; 1550 black cattle; 150 horſes; 200 goats. The farmers depend on the ſale of their black cattle, ſheep and wool, for the means of paying their rent, and ſupplying their families with what other articles of proviſion and clothing they may need. A ſmall quantity of cheeſe is exported. The butter is all employed in ſmearing ſheep, and not ſufficient for that purpoſe. There is ſome imported from the weſt country, or from England.—The land-rent is nearly L. 3000 Sterling. The rent of good arable and meadow ground, is from 12 s. to 16 s. the acre; of the beſt meadow land, 30 s. No artificial graſs was ſown here till within theſe 10 years; at preſent there may be 20 acres. It cannot be raiſed but by lime or marl, and the diſtance of each is ſo great, as diſcourages the farmers; the lime 20, and the marl 14 miles diſtant. The preſent miniſter was the firſt who brought marl to the Glenkens; the project was laughed at, as too expenſive; but on ſeeing the rich crops it produced, amply

rewarding the labour and expence, his example was ſoon followed; and now, both ſides of the Ken are enriched by it; and beſides, the grain ariſing from this mode of cultivation, he has the ſatisfaction of having inſpired his people with a ſpirit of induſtry; and now, when marl cannot be conveniently got, they have recourſe to lime, and find that it pays them very well. There is no marl in Galloway beyond 10 miles from the ſea. Here we are 24 miles diſtant. The cultivation by marl is principally owing to the exertions of Mr Gordon of Greenlaw, a very public ſpirited gentleman, the ſheriff of the county, who not only encouraged the draining of the Carlingwork Loch, where there are immenſe beds of ſhell-marl, but at his own expence made a canal 3 miles in length, to join Loch Dee, and conſtructed a number of flat bottomed boats of different dimenſions, to carry the marl from the Carlingwork Loch up the Dee and Ken to this place; ſome of which carry 20 double cart load, at 20 feet ſquare to the cart load, or 400 ſolid feet of marl.—There are upwards of 500 acres of natural wood in different ſpots in this pariſh, conſiſting moſtly of oak, aſh, birch, alder, hazel. Theſe woods have been moſtly cut within theſe 25 years, and the young plants are in a thriving ſtate. Much old fir is in the pariſh. Many acres of young fir were lately planted. About 80 acres in lochs, beſides Loch Ken. There has been a large foreſt in the north end of this pariſh; two large farms ſtill retain the name of Upper and Nether Foreſt, and a large flat of meadow called the King's Holm. This foreſt has been anciently ſtocked with deer; ſeveral of them were running wild on our moors about 20 years ago. Some old people remember to have ſeen near 20 of them. Since that time, their number has gradually decreaſed; the laſt of them was killed 7 or 8 years ago. Deer were plenty on the hills

and

and moors on the ſouth end of this pariſh, about 60 years ago, and were claimed as the property of Lord Kenmore; at preſent they are all deſtroyed.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The peculiar advantages of this pariſh are theſe: The particular richneſs of the taſte and flavour of the mutton fed on our high hills, above that fed on the lower and richer grounds; a town, with a conſtant weekly market; a poſt-office; the high road from Edinburgh to Portpatrick, and from Glaſgow to Kirkcudbright paſſing through it, and croſſing one another at New Galloway.—The peculiar diſadvantages of it are, the high ſituation of the ground, rendering the high hills cold and ſtormy, and dangerous to ſheep; the bad roads through the interior parts of it; the pernicious quality of a ſpecies of graſs to the health of the ſheep in 2 or 3 farms on the ſide of the Dee, infecting them with a diſeaſe called the Vanquiſh, *i. e.* it weakens, waſtes, and would at laſt kill them, unleſs removed to another farm; but are no ſooner removed than they recover their health, and gradually their ſtrength and fatneſs. This diſeaſe is of a different nature from the rot; for rotten ſheep put upon theſe farms (I am told) often recover.—The beſt means of meliorating the condition of the people of this pariſh, would be, 1ſt, Encouraging and promoting a woollen manufactory at New Galloway; 2dly, Improving the breed of ſheep, and quality of the wool. This laſt has already been attempted, and in ſome meaſure effected, by the premium given by the Society for the Encouragement of Fiſhing and Manufactures, and, if continued, will ſtill more promote this good purpoſe. 3dly, Making a canal from the ſea by the Carlingwork Loch, to join Loch Dee, a ſcheme ſome years ago projected, the ground ſurveyed and levelled, and the expence eſtimated, but of late dropped. This would be a great advantage to this

this place, for importing freeſtone, lime, &c. for the purpoſe of building, and of meliorating the land. 4thly, By making or mending that part of the road leading from Portpatrick to Edinburgh, by New Galloway from Minnigaff to Monnihive, and building bridges over the Ken, eſpecially one at New Galloway, which is often impaſſable by fords or ferry-boats, and alſo by making or mending the road leading from New Galloway, croſs the moors by Shawhead to Dumfries. This would not only be a great advantage to New Galloway, but to the country in general; for as this road from Portpatrick to Edinburgh by New Galloway is 15 miles nearer than by Carlingwork and Dumfries, and the road from Portpatrick to Dumfries 10 miles nearer by New Galloway than by the Carlingwork, all travellers from Ireland and the ſhire of Galloway travelling to Edinburgh, Dumfries and England, and all the Iriſh cattle exported to England, which amount to many thouſands yearly, would paſs this way, and alſo all travellers from Edinburgh to Ireland, or ſhire of Galloway.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The ſtipend is L. 80 : 11 : $3\frac{6}{12}$. The glebe is worth L. 7. The King is patron. The church was rebuilt 1745, and repaired 1788. The manſe was repaired 1765 and 1788, and is ſtill a bad houſe, and too little to accommodate the miniſter's family. The number of heritors is 10, 5 of whom reſide.—There is a public ſchool at New Galloway in this pariſh. The ſchool-houſe was rebuilt laſt year, and rendered more commodious; the yearly ſalary 200 merks Scots; ſcholars, at an average through the year, about 36; ſalary included, worth L. 30 a-year; wages for Engliſh, 1 s. 6 d. a-quarter, Engliſh and writing, 2 s. writing and arithmetic, 2 s. 6 d. arithmetic, 3 s. Latin, 3 s. This ſchool is inadequate to ſerve ſo large and extenſive a pariſh. It can only ſerve New Galloway, and that part

of

of the pariſh that is within 2 or three miles of it. Such as are farther diſtant, hire young lads into their families, that have been bred at the public ſchool, to teach their children Engliſh, and the firſt principles of writing and arithmetic, which they can do for L. 3 or L. 4 a-year. When 4 or 5 families lie contiguous to one another, they hire a teacher among them, for which they pay from L. 5 to L. 6, with victuals; and by this means all the children in the pariſh are taught to read and write.—At an average for the laſt 12 years, the number of poor, quarterly ſupplied with alms, is 12; average of collections for that time, L. 12, 10 s.; intereſt of a fund received in legacies, and otherwiſe, L. 8, 10 s.; which together make L. 21, given annually to the poor.

Prices, Wages, &c.—In 1765, beef was from 3 s. to 4 s. mutton from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. 6 d. the Engliſh ſtone, a good lamb 3 s. a dozen of eggs 1 d. a hen 4 d. a duck 5 d. &c. At preſent (1791) the prices are nearly doubled.—The wages of a day-labourer are from 6 d. to 8 d. and victuals; without victuals, from 1 s. to 1 s. 2 d. The annual wages of a labouring man ſervant are from L. 5 to L. 7; of a maid ſervant, from L. 3 to L. 4. A healthy and induſtrious man is able to maintain and bring up a family.—The fuel commonly made uſe of is peat; ſcarce at New Galloway and neighbourhood. The moſs is 3 miles diſtant, inacceſſible to carts, by reaſon of the badneſs of the roads; carried home in corn-ſacks, on horſes backs, which, conſidering the diſtance, greatly increaſe the expence, and hinder the poorer ſort, who have not horſes of their own, from getting home a ſufficient quantity; they have recourſe to broom, furze, and other bruſh-wood, to ſupply the deficiency. In all other parts of the pariſh peat is plenty, of eaſy acceſs, and of good quality. Every family cut their

their own peat, and though brought home on horſes backs, as the diſtance is ſhort, have ſufficient fuel at a very trifling expence. Much coal is uſed by the better ſort, brought in carts from Dalmellington, near 20 miles diſtant. Though New Galloway is finely ſituated for a woollen manufacture, the difficulty of finding fuel has hitherto diſcouraged the manufacturer from fixing there, and hindered both the increaſe and improvement of the burgh. But now when roads are opening up, and moſſes rendered acceſſible to carts, both the expence and difficulty will be leſſened; for a cart with 1 horſe will carry as many as 7 horſes on their backs.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The people are of the common ſize, between 5 feet 7 inches, and 6 feet, rather ſtronger made, and of a more roſy and better complexion than thoſe in the low country; owing, perhaps, to their not being accuſtomed to ſuch hard labour, to their living better, and eating more animal food. There is no part of Scotland where the poor live better, or eat ſo much animal food, as in this moor country.—There are no public manufactures. The people in general are frugal and induſtrious, and manufacture moſt of the woollen and linen cloth uſed by them. They are fond of muſic, dancing, and other ſocial amuſements.—A part of the landed property has been of late years exchanged, owing partly to the failure of the Douglas and Heron Bank, which has much diſtreſſed this part of the country, and partly to other cauſes. It ſold at between 24 and 30 years purchaſe.—Since 1780, when the act of Parliament was obtained for converſion of the ſtatute-labour, high-roads have been made and repaired by aſſeſſments on the pariſh, not exceeding L. 1 the L. 100 of valuation. Yet this is ſo inadequate to the making and repairing extenſive roads, that many of them are ſtill in bad order.

der. There are eleven ſtone bridges, and which are kept in good repair. One of them, of two arches, over the large burn of Paharrow, is the private donation of one Quintin Maclurg, a tailor, who lived in that neighbourhood about 60 years ago. Being often in fear and danger of his life, in paſſing and repaſſing this burn, to ſerve his cuſtomers, he reſolved that no one after him ſhould be in ſuch jeopardy again, and erected this bridge out of the earnings of his trade, which was never more than 4 d. a-day. His name ſtill remains engraven on a large ſtone on the top of the bridge, as a teſtimony of his public ſpirit.—There are only 2 inns in New Galloway, where entertainment can be had for men and horſes. There are 7 ſmaller ale-houſes in the town, and 3 in the country pariſh; but as theſe cannot afford to pay the licence, they ſell only profeſſedly in time of fairs. Formerly there were double that number; but of late years, the law has been ſo rigorouſly executed, and heavy fines impoſed on ſuch as ſell without licence, that many of them have given up ſelling; and happy for the country that it is ſo, as cheap whiſky has now found its way here.—Within theſe 10 years, 7 houſes have been built and rebuilt in the town of New Galloway, 3 of which are 2 ſtories high; beſides 1 built for a tannery, lately ſet up there, and now carried on to a great extent. In the country part of the pariſh there are 4 houſes built, and 3 rebuilt, 4 of which are 2 ſtories high, and elegantly fitted out. A better taſte for neatneſs and elegance is getting into this country, and which always bears ſome proportion to the ſpirit of induſtry. Gentlemen are not only building more elegant houſes for themſelves, but are alſo giving better and more convenient houſes to their tenants. So many new houſes are no proof of the increaſe of population; on the contrary, the farmers meet with greater encouragement from the landlords, in accumulating ſeveral farms into one;

ſo

ſo that more houſes are gone to ruin, for want of inhabitants, than have been built and rebuilt.—The preſent cuſtom of employing hired ſervants, who live in the family, inſtead of cottagers, has its advantages and diſadvantages. The advantages ſeem to be theſe: 1ſt, They are more under the maſter's eye, and more under his command day and night, than the cottagers, who often live at a diſtance, and think themſelves obliged to work only ſtated hours: 2dly, An induſtrious tenant can often make more of the benefit commonly given to cottagers, eſpecially when given in land, or in graſs to cows and ſheep, which was formerly the caſe, than will pay the wages of a hired ſervant.—The diſadvantages ſeem to be, 1ſt, The decreaſe of population; for example, there is 1 tenant in this pariſh that rents L. 300 a-year, and poſſeſſes 5 different farms, in which, about 10 years ago, were 7 tenants and 7 cottagers, which make 14 families; but now there are only 10 families in theſe farms, which is a decreaſe of 4 families, calculating theſe at $4\frac{1}{3}$, which I find is the calculation neareſt to the truth, in the country part of this pariſh, is 17 perſons fewer than formerly. 2dly, The increaſe of the price of labour. Cottagers were formerly nurſeries for breeding up ſervants, and furniſhed numbers ſufficient for ſupplying the wants of the pariſh, and ſo kept down the price of labour; but now the diſuſe of them leſſens the number of labouring ſervants, the wages of whom riſe or fall in proportion to their numbers; and being ſcarce for want of proper nurſeries for them, the price of labour is greatly increaſed, and muſt increaſe, as the ſpirit of induſtry increaſes, and hands are wanted; ſo that the diſuſe of cottagers is, amongſt many others, one great cauſe of the increaſe of the price of labour. 3dly, This diſuſe, and the high rent of ſmall poſſeſſions, diſcourage matrimony in young people who are ſervants.—New Galloway is a royal burgh. It has

four

four fairs in the year. Here is an excellent meal-market; for as meal and barley are almoſt always 2 d. and moſtly 3 d. the ſtone cheaper here than at Dalmellenton and ſhire of Ayr, great quantities are purchaſed at New Galloway, and carried thither, where they meet with a ready market.—The Park of Glenlee, where there is a houſe elegantly fitted up by the late Lord Preſident, Sir Thomas Miller, is one of the fineſt ſituations in this hilly country. It is on the banks of the river Ken, at the head of a beautiful holm, ſurrounded with hills, finely ſkirted with natural wood, and ſheltered with clumps of fir, and fine old oak. Two beautiful caſcades, or falls of water, are near it.—There is ſtill to be ſeen the veſtige of a road from the King's Holm to the caſtle of Dindcuck, 3 miles diſtant. But who this king was, tradition itſelf does not ſay. This old caſtle or abbey, or whatever it was, is now in ruins, and has all the marks of having been a ſtrong place. Some arched cellars, and ſome pieces of the mouldered walls, are all that remain of a large building.

NUMBER XXXVI.

PARISH of KILMALCOLM,

(COUNTY OF RENFREW).

By the Rev. Mr JOHN BROWN.

Situation, Soil, Air, &c.

THE pariſh is ſituated in the preſbytery of Paiſley, and Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr. It is about 6 miles ſquare, bounded on the W. by the pariſhes of Port-Glaſgow, Greenock, Innerkip and Largo, on the E. by Kilallan and Houſton, on the S. by Kilbarchan and Lochwhinoch, and on the N. by Erſkine and the river Clyde. The appearance of the country is more mooriſh than toward the eaſt of it, abounding much with rocks; but not mountainous, though there are frequent gentle riſings on the ſurface. The ſoil is ſhallow, and in a moiſt ſeaſon is very prolific in graſs and corn. Little barley or bear is raiſed, though I conceive, if the ground was properly prepared, it would produce this grain with equal ſucceſs. The air in general is moiſt, and there are frequent heavy rains from the weſtern ſhores, often accompanied with high winds. The inhabitants are generally healthy. The moſt frequent diſeaſes are fevers, conſumptions and rheumatiſms, occaſioned, perhaps, among

among the common people, from frequent wetneſs and damp cottages. The waters of Grieff and Duchal run through the pariſh from the W. abounding with fine trouts; in the ſpawning ſeaſon ſalmon come from the Clyde, and leave immenſe quantities of fry, which remain till April, and then return to Clyde; by cutting a fin as a mark, ſeveral have been taken next ſeaſon to the ſize of 18 and 20 inches, ſo quick is their growth in ſalt water. There is alſo fine parr. The Clyde produces kelp on the north ſide of the pariſh, but it is not much uſed for manure.

Population.—At the time of Dr Webſter's report the numbers were 1495. By a late enumeration there were 951 perſons, of whom were 443 males; 508 females.

Years.	*Baptiſms.*	*Marriages.*	*Burials.*
1784	32.	12	22
1785	45	15	21
1786	33	11	28
1787	36	13	16
1788	45	12	29
7789	32	6	24
1790	38	11	17
	261	80	157
Yearly average nearly	37	11	22

There is a ſmall village at the church containing about 45 houſes and 126 perſons. There are 5 wrights, a variety of profeſſing maſons, 2 clockmakers, and 8 weavers, 35 Seceders, and 18 of the ſect called Macmillanites. Suicide is very rare, only one inſtance is in remembrance, which happened laſt year by a perſon who for ſome time before had been troubled in mind.

Agriculture,

Agriculture, &c.—Planting is ſcarce, excepting about Finlayſton, Duchal, Carncuran and Craigbate, where the lime-tree abounds, and the ſoil is favourable for its growth; there is alſo the elm, oak, plane and fir, and at Duchal beech is in conſiderable perfection. Farms are generally incloſed. Farmers are ſmall and numerous. For the moſt part the farms rent from L. 20 to L. 60 Sterling yearly; arable land lets at an average from 15 s. to 20 s. the acre; meadow-ground from 30 s. to 45 s. oats (which is the prevailing crop) are generally ſown in the end of March and beginning of April, and the reaping begins for the moſt part in September. Natural graſs abounds; the artificial is little cultivated, though the lime quarry is only about 3 miles diſtant. The farmer imagines himſelf more profited by collecting earthen dunghills. Few horſes are reared. The cows are generally of a ſmall ſize between the highland and Galloway breed, but are moſtly good milk cows. Sheep are rare. The ploughs are generally of the Scots form, and made very ſtrong, as the ground is ſtony; each farmer uſes only one, as the farms are ſmall. The plough is generally drawn by 3 horſes, and 2 men are employed. Much of the ground might be ploughed with 2 horſes and a ploughman accuſtomed to drive by the rein, which is introduced of late with ſucceſs. Each farmer has generally a ſingle cart. The farmer has a ready market for every article at Port-Glaſgow and Greenock, and a high price.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c—The ſtipend is L. 63: 17: 9⅓ money, with three chalders of meal, which may be rated at 16 s. the boll, amounting in all to about L. 102. The glebe of a ſhallow ſoil, at an average, may be valued at L. 8. The Earl of Glencairn is patron. The church was built about the year 1560. The manſe was laſt repaired in 1788. There are 17 heritors, 2 of whom reſide at preſent.

The

The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is 100 merks; fees for teaching Engliſh are 1 s. 6 d. the quarter, writing 2 s. and arithmetic 3 s. During the winter there are about 30 ſcholars, and in ſummer 40 and upwards; the roads being ſo rough, children cannot travel to any conſiderable diſtance in winter. He is allowed L. 1 Sterling, for being ſeſſion-clerk and precentor, out of the public funds, which, together with 1 s. for each proclamation, is his living; and at an average, may amount to L. 15 or thereby, by which he frugally maintains a wife and 3 children at preſent.—The poor upon the roll at preſent are about 27, ſupplied from the public collections at the church, amounting at an average to L. 5 Sterling each Sabbath, together with the intereſt of ſome ſmall mortifications, amounting to about L. 49 Sterling yearly, which, with an annual contribution on the approach of the New Year, ſupports the natives.

Wages, Prices, &c.—The wages of a day-labourer are 1 s. 4 d. the rent of cottages is from 15 s. to 30 s. yearly. Peat is the general fuel with the common people, and with others coal is brought from Quarrelton or Comehill; the former are ſold at 5 d. the hutch, 4 of which are an ordinary cart-load, and about 6 miles diſtant; the latter 3 d. the hutch, 5 of which are a cart-load, and 3 miles diſtant. A labourer employed in huſbandry, at an average, has about L. 4 the half year, which, together with the thrift of his wife, gains his family a decent livelihood, or through-bearing, as they term it. Her work is moſt frequently ſpinning to the manufacturers in and about Paiſley, of lint given by them, or raiſed in the place. A male ſervant has, at an average, about L. 8 yearly; a female L. 3; both have their victuals afforded them. Hired ſervants are found to be more ready upon occaſions, eſpecially in harveſt. Cottagers frequently live at ſome diſtance,

diſtance, and in this rainy climate, a ſhort time is precious in that ſeaſon.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The people cultivate their farms, and follow no other employment, yet improvements are not advanced to any conſiderable length. They are as œconomical as their neighbours, and frugal from their circumſtances. Dreſs, cuſtoms and manners, are conſiderably improved within theſe 50 years; but the people by no means border on luxury.—The roads are but indifferent. There are 13 bridges, generally built and kept up by the family of Porterfield, and are in good repair. There are 3 of a larger ſize on the great road from Port-Glaſgow to Glaſgow. The great road from Glaſgow to Greenock, runs through the north corner of the pariſh for about 2 miles, and there are no other turnpikes. There is no commutation, and the ſtatute labour is indifferently performed. A toll-bar is fixed on the road between Port-Glaſgow and Kilbarchan, and it is in contemplation to make a turnpike, which will open a more contiguous line of communication between Ayr and the towns of Port Glaſgow and Greenock.—There are 6 ale-houſes in the village of Kilmalcolm, and 3 about the centre of the pariſh. There the country people meet to tranſact their buſineſs, and ſpend the ſocial hour. Their drink is generally ſmall beer and whiſky, the latter is too frequently attended with fatal conſequences to the conſtitution and morals

There are 3 low hills (as they are termed by the people) in a direct line from W. to E. where tradition ſays, the laws were adminiſtered before Courts of Seſſion were eſtabliſhed. There are the remains of the caſtle of Duchal, the ancient ſeat of the family of Porterfield, very romantic in its ſituation, and ſtrong in its conſtruction. Part of it was demo-

liſhed

liſhed by the family when they reared a ſummer houſe, and in an upper apartment was found a great quantity of human bones.—There are in the pariſh the 4 communion cups uſed by John Knox when he firſt diſpenſed the ſacrament in Scotland. The cups were originally uſed for the purpoſe of candleſticks, and perhaps from the neceſſity of the time converted to this pious purpoſe. Their hollow bottom reverſed forms the cup, and the middle, where the ſocket ſeems to be ſcrewed out, forms the foot. They are of the fineſt ſilver, and in modern times make a very ancient appearance. They are kept with great care by the family of Glencairn at Finlayſton, and the pariſh is favoured with the uſe of them on occaſion of diſpenſing the ſacrament. The people reſpect them much for their antiquity, as well as for the ſolemnity attending them in former and latter times.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXVII.

PARISH OF DREGHORN.

(COUNTY OF AYR.)

By the Rev. Mr MICHAEL TOD.

Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.

THE pariſh of Dreghorn, or rather the united pariſhes of Dreghorn and Percietown, are ſituated in the preſbytery of Irvine, and Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr. Theſe pariſhes were united in the year 1668. Each of them had a glebe; but the miniſter poſſeſſes only the glebe of Dreghorn. Theſe pariſhes may be 9 Engliſh miles in length, and at the broadeſt part of them 3 in breadth, though, in ſome parts they are not one. They are bounded on the W. N. W. and N. by the water of Annock, which ſeparates them from the pariſhes of Irvine and Stewartown; and the water of Irvine ſeparates them from Dundonald on the S. They are bounded by Kilmares on the S. E. and on the N. E. by Fenwick. The ground is a gradual aſcent from the weſt end of the pariſh to the eaſt. The ſoil in that part of it, which lies neareſt to the ſea, is either ſandy or graveliſh. Above the village it is a fine loam, and the reſt of it clay. The whole of the pariſh is arable, except a few acres of marſhy ground, which are uſed as meadow lands.

It

It is alſo moſtly incloſed, and there are a variety of clumps of planting upon the eminences of ſuch lands, as are the property of the Earl of Eglinton. There is alſo a number of verges of planting upon the eſtates of the other heritors, all which have a very fine effect in beautifying the country.

Agriculture.—The uſual crops are oats, bear, and rye-graſs. Beſides theſe, there are ſome ſmall quantities of wheat raiſed, and two farmers in the pariſh have ſeveral times ſown a few acres of turnip. There is very little black victual ſown. The method of culture which has been generally followed here for upwards of 30 years is the following. Every farm is now divided into three parts, each of theſe is ploughed for 3 years in its turn, while the other 2 remain in graſs. Graſs-ſeeds are ſown with the third year's crop, and the tenant is allowed to cut his hay field for one ſeaſon, and ſometimes for two. Mr Snodgraſs of Cuninghamhead has, for upwards of 12 years, differed from this mode of culture. He allows his tenants only to plough one-fourth of their farms for 3 years. By this method each fourth remains 9 years in graſs, in place of 6, before it is ploughed up. This he conſiders as being attended with two advantages to the tenant. It leſſens the number of his horſes upon the farm, while the fourth that is ploughed up, on account of its long reſt, yields nearly as much grain as the third uſed to do. The paſture grounds are likewiſe very much improved for the ſame reaſon. A further advantage ſuppoſed to ariſe from this is, that when once the lands are put in proper order, the tenant has it not in his power to ſpoil them, if he was diſpoſed to do ſo. This plan is conſidered ſo far preferable to the other, that in all the late leaſes of the Earl of Eglinton's eſtate in this pariſh it is adopted, where the farm is of a certain extent, as it is alſo

by ſome other gentlemen in the country. Mr Snodgraſs has made the following alteration upon his own plan. In any of the leaſes he has lately given to his tenants, he reſtricts them to plough one-fourth for 2 years only, while the other three-fourths remain in graſs for 6. This he looks upon as an improvement upon his former plan, as 3 ſucceſſive crops of oats are conſidered to impoveriſh a field very much, even though it is in the higheſt order when at firſt broke up. There is a conſiderable quantity of very fine cheeſe made in the pariſh. Some of the farmers keep from 12 to 20 milk cows. The average rent of lands in the pariſh will be from a guinea to 22 s. the acre. There are a few fields in it rented ſo high as 42 s. and 43 s.

Population.—At the time of Dr Webſter's report, the numbers were 887. The number of ſouls at preſent is about 830. Of theſe there are about 400 males, and 430 females. There are 6 perſons above 80, 18 above 70, 85 above 50, 313 above 20, 202 above 10, and 206 below 10 years of age.

Marriages, Births, and Deaths, for the laſt 10 *years.*

Years.	*Marriages.*	*Births.*	*Deaths.*
1781	13	21	12
1782	16	29	18
1783	9	27	19
1784	12	33	23
1785	14	12	10
1786	12	26	3
1787	8	23	8
1788	12	29	12
1789	8	27	15
1790	15	24	20

In the liſt of deaths there are ſeveral perſons who live in other pariſhes, but have their burying-place in this. The inhabitants

inhabitants have decreaſed conſiderably within the laſt 30 years. This is owing to two or three ſmall farms being thrown into one. Another cauſe of their decreaſe is, that no additional houſes have been built in the village; ſince I came to the pariſh there are ſeveral houſes fallen down and have not been rebuilt.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The ſtipend paid is 91 bolls 4½ pecks of meal, 2 bolls bear, and L. 16: 13: 4 in money. The church was rebuilt in 1780; the manſe in 1789; the Earl of Eglinton is patron.—The ſchoolmaſter has 100 merks of ſalary. He has a ſchool-houſe for teaching his ſcholars, but none for himſelf to dwell in. The late ſchoolmaſter was an old man, and for many years had very few ſcholars; but there was a private teacher, who often had 40 or 50 ſcholars.—Though we are peſtered with ſtrolling beggars, yet none of the poor in the pariſh are allowed to go about. They are ſupported not by an aſſeſſment, but from the collections, and the intereſt of the ſtock, which has been occaſionally ſaved from the collections, and other ſmall caſualties.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—In the weſt end of the pariſh there is a colliery, yielding, according to the information I received from one of the proprietors, above 11,000 tuns yearly. The greateſt part of theſe coals is exported to Ireland from the port of Irvine.

There is only one village in the pariſh where the church is built. There are no manufactures carried on; the houſes being very bad are low rented, which induces old or poor people to occupy them. The village is properly ſituated for manufactures, as the fields around it abound with ſprings of ſoft water. The Annock alſo runs very near it on the north

north ſide, and the water of Irvine at a very ſmall diſtance upon the ſouth. There are a few weavers in the village, and alſo in other parts of the pariſh, but theſe are employed in weaving ſuch kinds of cloth as are uſed by the country people. The inhabitants both in the village and pariſh are in general ſober, attentive, and induſtrious. There are at preſent 3 ale-houſes in the village, and one in another part of the pariſh; but the buſineſs they have is very inconſiderable, the principal part of it ariſing from travellers. There are 20 heritors in the pariſh, but the property of two thirds of them is not extenſive.

NUMBER XXXVIII.

PARISH OF BOLTON.

(COUNTY OF HADDINGTON.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN HAMILTON.

Situation and Surface.

THE pariſh of Bolton is in the preſbytery of Haddington, and Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It is very irregular in its boundaries and its dimenſions; extending from the N. E. corner to the S. W. near 6 miles; and in breadth, at a medium, not above 1 mile and a quarter; it is broadeſt at the two ends. It is bounded by Haddington pariſh on the N.; on the E. by that branch of the Tyne running from Yeſter; on the S. by Yeſter pariſh; on the W. by Humbie and Salton, which laſt incloſes it on the N. W. corner. There is a ſmall riſing, with a gentle declivity on either ſide, running from E. to W.

Population.—At the time of Dr Webſter's report, the numbers were 359. At preſent it contains only 54 families; males, 106; females, 129; ſouls, 235; baptiſms from 1780 to 1790, were 62; but 6 of theſe were from other

other pariſhes; burials from 1780 to 1790, were 40; but the ſeſſion-clerk ſays he records only ſuch as pay the tax to the Government. Marriages from 1775 to 1785, were 26.

Agriculture, &c.—The valued rent of the pariſh is about L. 2400 Scots; the real rent is ſaid to be about L. 1400 Sterling. The number of acres is about 2300, of which there are about 170 planted; moſt of the grounds are incloſed; ſome with ſtrips of planting. There are three parks of Lethington in it, on the S. W. ſide of the water; two of which are yearly let for paſture; the third is made an orchard, by the laſt Lord Blantyre, with a ſmall pleaſure ground planted by the ſide of the water. The other parks of Lethington are in the pariſh of Haddington, in all between 300 or 400 acres; the walls of which the Duke of Lauderdale is ſaid to have heightened about 4 feet, ſetting the ſtones on edge, when the Duke of York came to Scotland in Charles II's. reign, that he might ſhow a deer-park in Scotland. The pariſh is divided into 11 farms; 2 of which are occupied by the proprietors: the reſt, partly by reſiding, partly by non-reſiding tenants. There are 28 ploughs, 83 horſes, 280 cows, and about 6 ſcore ſheep; about 150 acres are in wheat; about 120 in bear; 230 in oats; 130 in peaſe and beans; 200 in clover; 190 in fallow. I am told that bear is not cultivated ſo much as formerly, for the barley brought from the E. coaſt of England is found to be of a better quality; and the tenants rather give two furrows to their oats. There are few turnip or potatoes raiſed, or lint ſown, except what is given to ſervants or cottagers, for carrying in ſtacks. The tenants are ſometimes ſubjected to kain and carriage of coals, and thirlage to mills; others pay commonly

monly money for grinding, or barley making; and even in ſome places, thirlage is converted into money. There are very few tradeſmen. Ploughmen have ordinarily L. 14 Sterling a-year. Prices are regulated by the Haddington market. Fuel is chiefly coal.

Stipend, School, Poor.—The ſtipend is 17 1/10 bolls wheat, 34 3/10 bolls bear, 69 9/10 bolls oats, and L. 9 Sterling, which comprehends vicarage tithes, communion elements, and L. 20 Scots for graſs. The glebe is 4 acres. The church is an old building, very thick in the walls. Lord Blantyre is patron. There are 5 heritors, one of whom reſides. —The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is L. 100 Scots.—There are no vagrants in the pariſh; and the poor and other neceſſary charges, are maintained ordinarily by the collections, mortcloths, and an hearſe, purchaſed by the ſeſſion, and let for hire.

Antiquities.—In the little village of Bolton, there remain ſome veſtiges of an houſe, and a park on the W. ſide of it, ſtill called the orchard, about 4 acres, which is ſaid to have belonged to John Hepburn, a friend of Bothwell's, who fled with him from Dunbar, when Bothwell eſcaped from the battle of Falſide, in Queen Mary's time. It ſeems that Bolton came then into the poſſeſſion of Maitland of Lethington, who is the anceſtor of the family of Lauderdale.—There is a place called ſtill Cheſters, where there are veſtiges of a camp between 5 and 6 acres, with a rampart and ditch; but there is no record concerning it.

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NUMBER XXXIX.

PARISH OF FEARN,

(COUNTY OF ROSS.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN URQUHART.

Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.

FEARN is evidently derived from the arn or alder tree, in Gaelic *Fearnn*, as there were many of these trees growing at Mid-fearn, in the parish of Eddertown, in this neighbourhood, where the foundation of the abbacy was in the 12th century first laid, and intended to be built. But the churchmen in those days finding the lands there confined, and not so fertile as they would incline, desisted from their purpose, and got a new bull from the Pope, for building the abbacy where it now stands, in a fertile and extensive plain of good land. It was founded here by Farquhard, or Farquhar, first Earl of Ross, in the reign of Alexander II.—The parish is of no great extent, being only 2 English miles in length, and nearly of the same breadth. It is bounded on the S. by the parish of Nigg; on the W. by Loggie (Easter); on the N. by Tain; and on the E. and S. E. by Tarbat and the Murray frith.—It is situated within the county of Ross, in the presbytery of Tain, and in the Synod of Ross.—The soil is a deep loam, in

in the centre of the pariſh, about the abbacy-church. The loans of Fearn to the S. and the lands of Allan to the W. are a deep clay, the N. and E. part is graveliſh, the S. E. and S. is light and ſandy. The face of the pariſh is nearly flat, with the exception of a few eminences, that are generally laboured, called, by way of diſtinction, Hills. About three-fourths are arable, the reſt partly green, and partly covered with heath.—The air is generally dry and wholeſome, but the climate has varied much of late years, eſpecially ſince 1782. Fevers are the moſt general diſeaſes among the common people; and, for the moſt part, at ſome particular ſeaſons prove mortal, eſpecially to thoſe advanced in years.

Lakes, Fiſh, &c.—The loch of Eye is above 2 miles long, and about half a mile broad. No fiſh are to be ſeen in it but eels; ſome of them have been got of a good ſize, weighing 4, 5 and 6 pounds. From this loch proceeds the water to the mills of Fearn, and in its courſe forms 2 leſſer lochs, in one of which there is moſs and green plots, in which ducks, teals and ſpeikintares (which laſt are like ſea-gulls, but of a ſmaller ſize) hatch their young, and which the ſwans and wild geeſe frequent a great part of the winter and ſpring.—The Murray frith lies to the S. E. of this pariſh. The coaſt for about a mile is flat and ſandy, on which the fiſhing town of Balintore lies, and Hiltown, another fiſhing town about half a mile to the eaſt of it; there it is rocky and high for about a mile more. The fiſh caught are chiefly haddocks, whitings, cod and red codlings, ſkate, cuddies, a few mackrel and flounders, dog-fiſh, lobſters, crabs, &c. About 20 or 30 years ago, there were great quantities of all the above kinds, and ſold very cheap; 120 haddocks for a peck of oats, and 160 for a peck of bear, or 6 d. and other fiſh in proportion; but for 7 or 8 years paſt, fiſh has

been ſcarcer, and conſequently very high priced. Laſt year and this alſo, haddocks ſold for 1 d. each, and even at 1½ d. and 2 d. for the largeſt. It is true, that the few they get now are much larger than thoſe taken when they got great quantities; but theſe they had near the ſhore, and might be, and were taken there twice and thrice a-day; but now they ſeldom get them, and muſt go farther for them, ſometimes the length of Helmſdale in Sutherland. The greateſt number of haddocks and cods uſed to be had in winter, and firſt of ſpring; and moſt whitings, codlings, flounders and cuddies, in ſummer and harveſt. They are caught with nets, and uſed to be ſold chiefly in the pariſh, and at Tain. Sometimes they went with boat-loads of fiſh to Dingwall, Inverneſs, &c. The ſea-weed is uſed on the coaſt for manure.

Quarries.—There is a ſoft freeſtone at Pitkery, of an inferior quality, in the eaſt end of the pariſh, but little uſed; a pretty good freeſtone at Balintore; a good deal of it uſed for building; but at Catboll, in the rocky part of the coaſt, there is a remarkable good freeſtone, little inferior to any in Scotland.

Quadrupeds and Birds.—We have hares, foxes, rabbits, eagles, hawks, ducks, teals, partridges, owls, ravens, rooks, plover, gray plover, with migratory birds, as the ſwallow and cuckoo, ſwans and wild geeſe, &c. The ſwallow and cuckoo appear about the beginning of ſummer, the latter departs early in Auguſt, and the former in September. The gray or wild geeſe appear about the end of Auguſt, and continue through the pariſh, and eſpecially at the loch of Eye, till the end of April, when they depart, to hatch their young ones in the Weſt Highlands. The ſwans appear about the end of October, and continue about the loch of

of Eye, the ſouth loch running from it, almoſt all the winter and ſpring, except when a great froſt locks up the loch from them.

Population.—At the time of Dr Webſter's report, the numbers were 1898. It appears that the population of the pariſh has increaſed conſiderably ſince the 1742, there being at leaſt a fourth more people in it now than when the church fell at that period; yet they have neither increaſed or diminiſhed any thing to ſpeak of for theſe 20 years paſt. On the laſt day of April 1791, there were in the pariſh about 1600 perſons, of whom were,

Under 10 years of age, - -	385
Between 10 and 20, - -	399
Above 20, unmarried, - -	408
Widowers and widows, - -	98
Married, - - -	310
	1600

Of whom there are 66 from 50 years to 60, 75 from 60 to 70, 46 from 70 to 80, and 9 from 80 to 90 years old.

Baptiſms, Marriages and Burials, for the laſt 8 *Years.*

Years.	*Baptiſms.*	*Marriages.*	*Burials.*
1783	19	3	2
1784	29	7	25
1785	36	8	29
1786	31	5	4
1787	19	3	12
1788	36	8	4
1789	32	12	11
1790	36	13	5
	238	59	92
Yearly average nearly may be	45	9	25, if

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the regiſter was complete.—There was no regiſter kept here preceding 1783, when there was an act of Parliament for taking a ſmall duty of 3 d. for every baptiſm, marriage and burial regiſtrated in any pariſh. This act is rather defective, in that it does not oblige each pariſh to regiſtrate; from which defect, not only many pariſhes, but, as is ſaid, ſome counties, ſuch as Sutherland, keep no regiſter at all in any of their pariſhes; and even where ſuch regiſters are kept, thoſe that do not incline to regiſtrate, and pay 3 d. are not obliged to regiſtrate at all.—There are 10 heritors or proprietors, 2 of whom only reſide. The inhabitants are generally farmers and cottagers, or crofters, except thoſe afterwards mentioned. Beſides the fiſhermen, there are 16 weavers, with 5 apprentices, 13 tailors, with 4 apprentices, 14 ſhoemakers, with 4 apprentices, 3 ſmiths, with 3 apprentices, 5 joiners or wrights, with 3 apprentices, 2 coopers, 2 maſons, 1 turner or wheel-wright, 1 merchant, and 8 millers; all of whom are employed in working for the inhabitants of the pariſh, and not in manufacturing articles for ſale. All are of the Eſtabliſhed Church, except about 6 families of Seceders. There may be 380 houſes; 30 new ones within theſe 10 years, and about 12 pulled down. At an average, each family contains 4 or 5 perſons, and each marriage produces from 5 to 7 children. —There are only 3 ſmall towns or villages, and about 100 perſons in each. In the village of Fearn are 2 mills, (formerly the Abbot's *), paying 12 chalders of rent yearly; alſo 6 farmers, 1 diſtillery of whiſky, 1 merchant's ſhop, a ſmith's ſhop, a turner's ſhop, and a public-houſe, ſelling drams, &c. The village of Hiltown conſiſts chiefly of fiſhermen. There are 3 fiſhing boats in it, with 6 men in each. That of Balintore alſo conſiſts of fiſhermen, with 3 fiſhing

* The Abbot's income behoved to be very conſiderable, as his lands and thirlage now amount to above L. 900 Sterling.

ing boats and a coble. There are 3 houſes in which drams are ſold.

Wages and Prices.—A farmer's ſervant receives 6 bolls of oat and bear meal, for his meat, 2 bolls, 3 firlots of bear or oat meal, for his wages, and 6 s. or 8 s. for ſhoes, with 1 boll for the produce of his aſhes, together with a certain quantity of ground to raiſe potatoes on, which helps nearly to maintain himſelf and his family for half a-year, if his wife is induſtrious. They can live comfortably, and bring up their children decently. A ſingle lad in the houſe, gets from L. 2 to L. 3 a year; female ſervants get from L. 1 to L. 1, 10 s.; the day's wages for huſbandry are 1 s. a-day without, or 6 d. with meat; women, at 6 d. or 3 d. with meat; other work, and handicraftſmen, are generally paid by the piece.—Beef and mutton ſell at 2½ d. the pound, and in ſpring, and beginning of ſummer, at 3 d. and 3½ d.; veal at 3½ d. pork at 2½ d. and 3 d. the pound; hens at 6 d. ducks at 6 d. chickens at 2 d. and eggs at 8, 10, 12, for 1 d. according to the ſeaſon; butter at 6 d. 7 d. and 8 d. the pound of 21 ounces.

Agriculture, &c.—The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 4037 : 12 : 11 Scots; the real rent, about 2200 bolls. The rent of the land is 10 s. 15 s. and even L. 1 the acre. The principal crops are oats and barley, a conſiderable quantity of peas, and ſome rye, with a few beans, and a little wheat, about 50 or 60 acres of clover and rye-graſs, but little flax or hemp. Oats and peas are ſown from the middle of March to the end of April; barley, from the end of April to the end of May. There is little wheat here, and what is, is generally ſown together with rye in October; potatoes, from the end of March to the end of May, of which above 1000 bolls are raiſed annually. The harveſt

harveſt begins generally about the end of Auguſt, and ends, in good years, about the middle of October. There are about 800 oxen, and it is believed 500 horſes, of the ſmall Scots or Highland kind; though the few gentlemen in the pariſh, uſe horſes of a better ſize. There may be 150 milk cows; about 1000 ſheep of the ſmall Scots kind, their wool neither coarſe nor very fine. There may be about 450 ſwine ſold annually from this pariſh, to Tain, Cromarty, Fort George, and Inverneſs, at various prices; the ſmaller kind from 8s. 10s. 15s. to L. 1, and the larger from L. 1 to L. 2, 10s. There may be about 200 oxen bought into this pariſh annually, and about 250 oxen and cows ſold yearly at Whitſunday and Martinmas.—There are 140 ploughs, generally 6 oxen in the plough; ſome uſe 8, ſeveral uſe 4 oxen and 2 horſes. It is the old Scots plough that is uſed, with a few exceptions. But little of the pariſh is incloſed. The produce is much greater than is ſufficient for the conſumption of the inhabitants; above two-thirds of the whole is exported out of the pariſh, in oats and oat-meal, to Cromarty, Inverneſs, and Leith. But the barley is partly diſtilled in the neighbourhood, in Ferintoſh, and the adjacent country. Monopoly of farms has taken place here; there being inſtances in this and the neighbouring pariſhes, of individuals farming what was formerly poſſeſſed by 4, 6, 8, and 10 tenants. There are little or no perennial ſervices performed by any tenants or undertenants in this pariſh. There were ſeveral days of ſervitude about 20 or 30 years ago, ſuch as manuring and ploughing the maſter's farm for 2 or 3 days in the ſpring, cutting down his corns, and leading his peats and turf, for as many days; but all theſe are now converted.

Stipend, School, and Poor.—The living conſiſts of 128 bolls of barley, with 100 merks Scots, for ſmall teinds, and

and 100 merks for communion elements, with a manſe and glebe of about 5 acres. The King is patron. A part of the old abbey church was repaired at a conſiderable expence in 1772, and is now uſed again as the place of worſhip. The manſe was built a conſiderable time before the Revolution, and was raiſed and repaired once and again; the laſt reparation was in 1782.—The ſtate of the ſchool is but indifferent. The ſchoolmaſter has only 100 merks Scots from the heritors, and the only perquiſite is L. 20 Scots from the ſeſſion, as precentor and ſeſſion-clerk, with a trifle he receives for each marriage and baptiſm. The encouragement being ſo little, we ſometimes want one altogether. Some boys or girls, in their parents houſes, begin to teach for a trifle of quarter payment. There may be about 100 ſcholars among them all.—The number of poor is 45. The annual ſum expended for their relief, is L. 10 Sterling, produced by the collections in the church, and the intereſt of a ſmall ſum appropriated for them. They are not deſtitute poor, or ſuch as do not work generally for themſelves; but many of them being old and ſickly, get in proportion to their need. But they are chiefly ſupplied by the charity and benevolence of the gentry and farmers of the pariſh. There are not above 6 on the roll, who at any time beg in or out of the pariſh. Lady Ann Stewart, ſpouſe to Baron David Roſs of Balnagown, mortified 3000 merks Scots for the uſe of the religious poor, within the preſbytery of Tain, and left the miniſters of it patrons of ſaid fund. The intereſt of it is divided once in the 2 years, and the different pariſhes in the bounds get in proportion to the character of the religious poor in each, ſo far as it will go; ſome pariſhes 30, ſome 40, ſome 50 merks at each diviſion. Sometimes one pariſh will get more, ſometimes another; but not deſigned for beggars, but for aged and reduced people of a good character. And

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the people on the liſt in each pariſh, get ſome 5, ſome 10, ſome 15, or more merks, as they are judged deſerving, as far as it will go, for life.

Antiquities and Curioſities.—There are ſeveral Druidical temples in this pariſh. The abbacy is one of the moſt ancient buildings here. It is ſaid to have been firſt made up of mud. The principal part of it was 99 feet in length, within walls, 25½ feet in breadth, and the walls 24 feet high above the ground. The abbacy was not only the place of worſhip before the Reformation, but ever ſince, until October 1742, when, on a ſudden, in time of public worſhip, the roof fell in. There were 36 perſons killed inſtantly, by what fell in of the roof and ſlate, on that melancholy occaſion; 8 more died ſoon after.—The caſtle of Lochlin, in the N. E. corner of the pariſh, is another remarkable building. It is ſaid to be of 500 years ſtanding. It ſtands upon an eminence, about 1 mile N. E. of the loch of Eye, and about 6 miles E. from Tain, and is indeed one of the moſt conſpicuous objects in this country. It was certainly built as a place of ſecurity againſt ſudden incurſions in the days of violence. Its ſhape reſembles 2 figures, nearly ſquare, joined together by the corners, in which junction there is a ſtair-caſe to the top. The leſſer one, which looks towards the W. being about 20, and the greater, which looks towards the E. about 38 feet ſquare. The caſtle is 60 feet high. It is fortified with 3 large turrets, of which, 1 ſtands upon the leſſer ſquare, and 2 upon the greater. Theſe turrets are each of them capable of holding 3 or more men with eaſe, and in each of them are 5 ſmall round holes, of about 4 inches diameter, with 3 larger above them, of a quadrangular form. The latter, it is imagined, were intended for the ſentries or watchmen to ſee through, and the others for ſhooting of arrows. The

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outer door of the kitchen was made of ſtrong bars of iron, as thick as an ordinary man's leg, and the windows were cloſed with ſmall grates or twiſted ſtentions of iron, ſo that it may be readily ſuppoſed that it was almoſt impregnable at the period in which it was erected.—There is another very ancient caſtle, that of Cadboll, equally old, if not older than either the abbacy or the caſtle of Lochlin. There are little remains of it now, but 2 or 3 vaults. There is a very ſingular and remarkable tradition concerning this caſtle, that though it was inhabited for ages, yet never any perſon died in it; and many of thoſe who lived in it, wiſhed to be brought out of it, as they longed for death, eſpecially Lady May, who reſided there about 100 years ago; being long ſick, and longing for death, ſhe deſired to be brought out of her caſtle, which at laſt was accordingly done, and no ſooner did ſhe come out of it, than ſhe expired!

Fuel.—The principal diſadvantage under which this pariſh labours, is the ſcarcity of fuel. The common people burn turf, a few peats, and ſome heath, carried from the diſtance of 8 miles; there being little or no moſs in the pariſh, but that adjacent to the loch of Eye, and it is generally ſo overflowed with water, by a ſervitude of the mills of Fearn, that the proprietor can ſeldom get any peats out of it. The few heritors, and the better ſort of farmers, now burn coal. But it is of the greateſt diſadvantage to the pariſh, to want fuel, or not to get coal at an eaſy rate; for it coſts generally 2 s. 2 d. the barrel; and the farmers and cottagers ſpend all the ſummer, and a part of the harveſt, in procuring ſome bad turf.

Eminent Men.—It ſaid by ſome that the famous lawyer, Sir George Mackenzie, King's Advocate in King

Charles II.'s time, was born in the caſtle of Lochſlin; but there is no certainty of it. Farquhar, the firſt Earl of Roſs, and founder of the abbacy, was buried in this pariſh, as were ſeveral others of the Earls of Roſs. There is an area in the abbacy, appropriated for a burial place for all of the name of Roſs; almoſt all of whom in the north, bury there. General Charles Roſs of Balnagown, who was advanced to the higheſt military honours, and who had a principal hand in 2 very bloody wars againſt the King of France, for the liberty of Europe, under the auſpices of William and Anne, was buried here. This man was equally famous for the arts of peace and war. He died at Bath, in the 66th year of his age, 1732. There is alſo buried here, the valiant and brave Admiral Sir John Roſs of Balnagown.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The people are ſober, regular, decent, and induſtrious; they are alſo generous and humane. Their condition, however, might be ameliorated conſiderably, could they have coals imported duty free, and ſome heavy multures removed, which hinders the improvement of land, and checks any attempts for the eſtabliſhing of manufactures. None are obliged to leave the pariſh for want of employment. Some few inliſt yearly as ſoldiers. Many inliſted in the late General Fraſer's regiment, and many alſo in the 73d, and ſome in the 42d and 75th regiments. The people are generally healthy and robuſt, and rather above the common ſtature. There may be 12 in the pariſh above 6 feet high.—The common people ſpeak the Gaelic language, though many of them now underſtand the Engliſh. The names of places ſeem to be wholly derived from the Gaelic, and are expreſſive of their ſituation, occupation of the inhabitants, quality of the place or ſoil, &c.—The lands in this pariſh

do not yield near one half of the crops they produced 20 or 30 years ago, owing to the cold ſeaſons. Since the year 1781, there has been nothing like a good crop among us; no peas, eſpecially, came to any account ſince. It is now indeed idle, and appears fabulous, to relate the crops raiſed here 30 or 40 years ago. The ſeaſons were formerly ſo warm, that the people behoved to unyoke their ploughs as ſoon as the ſun roſe, when ſowing barley; and perſons yet living, tell, that in travelling through the meadows in the loans of Fearn, in ſome places drops of honey were ſeen as the dew on the long graſs and plantain, ſticking to their ſhoes as they walked along in a May morning; and alſo in other parts, their ſhoes were oiled as with cream, going through ſuch meadows. Honey and bee-hives were then very plenty, which, ſince the year 1782, are like to be wholly loſt, and extirpated out of the country. Cattle, butter and cheeſe, were then very plenty and cheap. There are people yet living in this pariſh, who have bought young oxen for 15 s. 19 s. and L. 1, which now would coſt L. 4 Sterling each; good butter ſold at 2 s. 6 d. and 3 s. the ſtone; cheeſe at 10 d. the ſtone; and victual at 2 s. 6 d. the boll. Some of the abbots of Fearn's victual was only valued at half a merk Scots the boll; and a gentleman in this pariſh, about or within 30 years ago, had a proceſs for getting the current price for ſome of the abbots teind-bolls, which was brought before the Houſe of Lords, and he loſt it, being fixed at the old price of half a merk the boll.—In the years 1782 and 1783, victual got up to an enormous height, hitherto unknown in this country; being ſold from 24 s. to 28 s. the boll. The poor were partly relieved by the wiſdom and generoſity of the Barons of Exchequer, who ſent 300 bolls of victual to the Sheriff of this county, to be diſtributed *gratis* among the poor of the different pariſhes, as the firſt relief; and another

ther veſſel with ſo much, to be ſold at a cheaper rate than any other in the country; of both which, this pariſh got their proportion, which was a ſeaſonable relief. And Providence was kind in thoſe days of ſcarcity, in providing plenty of fiſh from the ſea, ſo that not only the ordinary fiſhermen caught abundance, and ſold them to the poor until next crop grew up, but many poor people joined, got different cobles, and caught a quantity of cuddies, red codlings, and flounders, near the ſhore; alſo an extraordinary quantity of fine cockles was had near Tain, on this ſide of the Dornoch frith, which was almoſt a miraculous ſupply and ſupport to this and all the neighbouring pariſhes; ſo that hundreds of men and women, with their horſes, were ſeen daily coming home with great burdens and loads of the beſt cockles, in ſuch abundance as they never appeared before nor ſince. Many boat-loads were carried to diſtant places. No one died for want in this pariſh. But in the year 1740, in the like ſcarcity, many ſtarved.—There is no kind of manufacture eſtabliſhed here, but there is a good deal of hemp ſpun yearly, from the manufacture at Cromarty, which will circulate L. 400 Sterling. There will alſo be drawn about L. 150 Sterling yearly, for ſpinning lint. The people have become much more extravagant in their clothing and apparel, of late years, buying theſe chiefly from the ſhops, whereas formerly they only wore their own country-made cloth. The farmers have never yet recovered the diſtreſs of 1782. Many of them were reduced thereby. Luxury has crept in among all ranks ſince 1746, and all articles are now advanced in price. For inſtance, ſervants could buy a pair of ſhoes in thoſe days for 10 d. which now coſt them from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. a pair. In this pariſh, the people are far from market. There is no demand ordinarily for the victual here, until all is ſold, not only in the ſouthern counties, but even in the

the weſtern part of this ſame county; and the tenants being in ſtraits for money at Martinmas, often ſell the few bolls they can diſpoſe of, at 10 s.; they ſeldom get more for it till Whitſunday, which is the time the price generally riſes. Since the ſeaſons have varied ſo much, and turned ſo cold, they are at a great diſadvantage for want of graſs; for the common leys and meadows that uſed to yield graſs, which might be cut down by ſcythes, now a-days yield but a very ſcanty paſture for any cattle or ſheep. The average rent of farms was 16, 20, and 25 bolls, the greater ones 30 and 35 bolls each, with a very few exceptions of 40, 45, and 50 bolls. But now ſeveral have farms of 70, 80, 120, and 130 bolls, ſo that the number of farmers is diminiſhing; which, together with the annual emigration from the pariſh, is the reaſon that the population has not increaſed for ſeveral years. Several young men and women go annually to ſervice from this, eſpecially to Cromarty, Inverneſs, Moray, and Aberdeen ſhires, and ſome to Edinburgh, Glaſgow, Newcaſtle, and ſome of the Colonies; ſome young men after, and ſome before they have learned any handicraft. Property in land cannot be ſaid to be often changing, except in a few inſtances. It is to be obſerved, that as there is an union of farms, ſo is there of eſtates in this pariſh; 1 heritor poſſeſſing what 2, 3, and 4 poſſeſſed 30 or 40 years ago. The laſt crop was generally the ſcantieſt in quantity, and eſpecially as to the quality of the barley ſince 1782; owing to the cold ſummer and harveſt. So that, in one word, the only means whereby the condition of the people could be ameliorated, next to better ſeaſons, would be, for the Legiſlature to allow coals duty free.

NUM-

NUMBER XL.

PARISH OF KNOCKANDOW,

(COUNTY OF MORAY.)

By the Rev. Mr FRANCIS GRANT.

Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.

KNOCKANDOW has its name from two Celtic words, *Knock*, ſignifying 'hill,' and *Dow*, 'black.' It is ſituated in the county of Moray, preſbytery of Aberdour and Synod of Moray, about 10 miles in length, and, at an average, 2 in breadth. It is bounded on the S. and S. W. by the pariſhes of Inveraven and Aberdour, from which it is ſeparated by the river Spey, one of the moſt rapid in Scotland; on the E. by Rothes, on the N. by Birnie and Dallas, on the W. by Edinkilly and Cromdale.—The country is hilly; the ſoil either deep moſs or ſandy gravel; the air dry and healthy.—Spey is the only river connected with the pariſh, which produces ſalmon; but owing to cruives, few of them get up this length. The hills are covered with heath, and the river-ſide with birch, oak and alder. The many ſmall rivulets that deſcend from the hills, are frequently in the months of February and November ſwelled by the rains, overflow their banks, and do conſiderable harm. This happened particularly in 1783, when

when a water-ſpout, there is reaſon to believe, fell in the adjacent hills.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's return, the numbers were 1267. The population is rather leſs than about 25 years ago, many having gone to Aberdeen. The number of all ages at preſent is about 1500; of whom 600 are males, and 900 females. The annual average of births is 40, of marriages 12. The number of ſouls under 10 is 460, and from 70 to 100 is 36.

Agriculture.—The grain principally cultivated is black oats, big, or Scotch bear, ſome rye, turnip and potatoes. There is very little artificial graſs. Seed-time generally begins in the end of March, and continues through the whole of April. Harveſt here is in Auguſt, September and October. The land-rent of the pariſh is about L. 2000. The fiſhings produce about L. 10 a-year. The number of horſes 300, of cattle 3000, of ſheep 5000. There may be about 150 ploughs, all of the Scotch kind, except one. The laſt in general are very bad. The very beſt arable land is 14 s. the acre; the general ſize of farms about 30 acres.

Stipend, Poor, &c.—The value of the living, including the glebe, is L. 85 Sterling. Sir James Grant of Grant is patron. The church was built in 1757, and the manſe in 1767. There are 4 heritors.—The number of poor is 20. The collections for their relief are about L. 3; and the fines of delinquents, with what ariſes from a mortification, may amount to L. 7.

Prices and Wages.—Proviſions formerly were very cheap. A fat ox might have been got for L. 1, 5 s. and a ſheep for 3 s. 4 d.; a boll of oat-meal for 6 s. 8 d. Now, beef and mutton

mutton ſell at 3 d. the pound, meal at 14 s. the boll, and fowls, which ſold at 2 d. coſt 6 d. and 7 d.—A labourer will earn 6 d. a-day in ſummer, and 4 d. in winter, including victuals. A wright 8 d. a maſon 10 d. and a tailor 4 d. beſides victuals. A common labourer, when married, could never maintain his family, if he had not a ſmall croft. This deſcription of men, in general, is in great poverty. A man ſervant earns from L. 4, 10 s. to L. 5 a-year, and a woman L. 1 : 13 : 4.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The Gaelic was generally ſpoken here till about 50 years ago.—Peats are the only fuel.—The general ſize of the people is about 5 feet 6 inches, and their complexion black. Many of them are very deficient in induſtry, but œconomical. They are fond of a military life, and prefer the Highland regiments.—The roads in the pariſh were formerly well made, and kept in good repair; but, for ſome time paſt, they have been greatly neglected. The people, ſenſible of this neglect, pay the ſtatute-labour in kind, and work, it may be ſuppoſed, as little as poſſible. Were a more liberal plan of management adopted, and the ſtatute-labour commuted, it would be more agreeable, and of much advantage. The people here have no idea of turnpikes, or their advantages.—In 1782, there was neither a ſufficiency of ſeed nor bread, and had not Government interfered, numbers muſt have ſtarved; but the ſupply granted, relieved, in a great degree, their wants.—The pariſh, in general, is unincloſed. The people are ſenſible of the advantage of incloſures, but they are little encouraged, except by one of the heritors. The condition of the people might be much meliorated, by granting them leaſes for 38 years, and a lifetime, by encouraging incloſures, and giving them good examples of huſbandry.

NUM-

NUMBER XLI.

PARISH OF DALRYMPLE,

(COUNTY OF AIR.)

By the Rev. Mr EBENEZER WALKER.

Name, Situation, Soil, &c.

DALRYMPLE appears to be a Gaelic word, *Dalrymole*, and ſignifies 'the valley of the ſlaughter of the king.' Here, it is ſuppoſed, Coilus king of the Britons fell. This pariſh is in the preſbytery of Air, and Synod of Glaſgow and Air.—The lower part of it is delightfully ſituated, and is valley-ground, ſurrounded on both ſides with little green hills. Near the river Doon, for the ſpace of 5 or 6 miles S. E. the ſituation is beautiful. The length of the pariſh is 6 or 7 miles; its breadth, in ſeveral places, is 2 Scotch miles. Dalrymple is bounded by the pariſhes of Dalmellington, Coylton, Maybole, Air and Kirkmichael. —The general appearance of the country is partly flat, and partly hilly; part of the ſoil is fertile, and part barren; part of it deep, and part ſhallow. Some of it well cultivated and manured by lime or marl. There is variety of mineral ſprings and lochs. There is only one river called Doon, which flows from Loch Dune. After a courſe upwards of 24 miles of various windings and turnings, it diſcharges

charges itſelf into the ſea. The river is ſtored with trout, ſalmon, pike and eel. The ſalmon-fiſhing here lets at preſent for L. 13. This ſpecies of fiſh is ſold in ſummer for 6d. the pound, the ſeaſon in which it is in its higheſt perfection. There is freeſtone, marl and lime.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's returns, the numbers were 439. The number of ſouls at preſent is 380.

Males, -	170	Farmers and their families,	235
Females, -	210	Weavers, -	6
Examinable perſons,	260	Smiths, -	2
Annual births, about	17	Shoemakers, -	3
——— marriages, do.	8	Wrights, - -	1
——— burials, do.	11	Tailors, - -	1
Farmers,	40	Inhabited houſes, -	86

No ſectaries. The proportion between the annual births and the whole population is as 1 to 24; between the marriages and the whole population as 1 to 54; between the deaths and the whole population as 1 to 40.

Agriculture.—The pariſh, for the moſt part, ſupplies itſelf with proviſions, and ſometimes exports. A conſiderable proportion of the grounds is employed in raiſing corn, roots, potatoes, and cabbage. Only a few acres are cultivated in raiſing hemp or flax. There are many acres, both in ſown graſs and paſture, but more in paſture. The farmers here commonly ſow between the middle of March and the end of April; and reap between the middle of Auguſt and the end of September. The valued rent is L. 1980, 1s. 1 d. Scotch.

Stipend, Poor, &c.—The church was built in 1764; the manſe in 1728; and both of them were lately repaired.

The

The value of the living is about L. 76 or L. 80. The glebe is extremely ſmall. There are 5 heritors. The King is patron.—The number of poor on the roll is 7. The yearly amount of the collections for their relief, is about L. 11. There is alſo about L. 20, for their maintenance, in the Bank of Air. No pariſh in the preſbytery has its poor better ſupplied.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—This pariſh lay formerly under diſadvantages, which are now, in a great meaſure, removed, by means of incloſures and good roads.—There are 3 old caſtles, the moſt remarkable of which is called Barbiſton. A battle is ſaid to have been fought between Dick of Barbiſton and Kennedy, the latter of whom was killed. And from the ſtone which killed him, the place is reported to have been called *Barbarous Stone*, or Barbiſton. Some ſtones of the old vaults were found, and bear the dates of 1340 and 1345. A ſpear, and ſeveral large bones, which diſſolved when expoſed to the air, were alſo found near this ſpot.—The price of proviſions has increaſed much within theſe few years. A day's wages for a labourer in huſbandry, are generally from 10 d. to 1 s. 5 d. the day. The wages of a common labourer, when married, are from L. 3 to L. 3, 10 s. in the half year, and are found little enough to bring up a family. The fuel commonly uſed is coal and peat. Very little wood is uſed. The price of the coal and peat is nearly the ſame, from 4 d. to 6 d. the load. The people in general are diſpoſed to induſtry, and are œconomical.

NUM-

NUMBER XLII.

UNITED PARISHES OF DUTHIL AND ROTHIE-MURCHUS.

(COUNTIES OF MURRAY AND INVERNESS.)

By the Rev. Mr PATRICK GRANT.

DUTHIL.

Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.

THE ancient name of the pariſh of Duthil was *Glenchearnich*, ſignifying, in Gaelic, "Glen of Heroes;" from various exploits of the inhabitants in expelling the Cummins from that part of the country, as well as from their obſtinate defence of it, afterwards againſt the depredations of the Highlanders. The modern name Duthil is from *Deogh-dhall*, "excellent valley;" the Kirk-town being ſituated upon a riſing ground, commanding the proſpect of a valley about 1000 acres. The pariſh is in the county and Synod of Murray, and preſbytery of Abernethy; extends 14 miles from E. to W. and is 10 miles in breadth, is bounded by the pariſh of Moy on the N. by Alvey on the W. by Abernethy on the S. and by Inverallen on the E. The general appearance is hilly, with fir,

fir, birch and alder, on the ſkirts of the hills; but beyond them it is covered with heath, and is rocky. It is divided nearly into two equal parts by the river Dulnan, ſignifying in Gaelic, "floody," running from W. to E. about 14 miles. On both ſides of which lies a great part of the arable ground. The ſoil towards the lower end of the pariſh, which widens into a flat for ſeveral miles, frequently overflowed by the Dulnan, is deep. Towards the upper end, and at a diſtance from the river, ſhallow, yet fertile through the whole. The climate is extremely healthy, and the moſt common diſtempers are nervous fevers, and ſwellings in the joints, occaſioned, moſt probably, by the viciſſitudes of heat and cold, which occaſion too frequent and imprudent changes of warmer clothing for the Highland garb. There are ſeveral mineral ſprings in the pariſh, two of which have been ſerviceable in the gravel.

Animals, &c.—The quadrupeds are of the common kind in the Highlands. Some of the horſes are of the large labouring ſpecies. The Highland garrons, as they are called, though not ſo ſufficient for labour, are more adapted to the lower claſs of people, eaſily ſupported, by running out in the fields moſt part of winter. This country, once ſtored with the fineſt woolled kind of ſheep, has for ſome years been over-run with the coarſe Linton breed, which ought to be extirpated from every country. The pariſh abounds with grouſe, partridge and black-game, and a vaſt variety of the ſmaller kind of birds. The wood-cock appears in October, and diſappears in April.

Population.—At the time of Dr Webſter's report, the numbers in Duthil and Rothiemurchus were 1785. In the

the earlier periods of ſociety here, when only the ſkirts of the hills were inhabited, the lower grounds being covered with wood, and infeſted by wolves and other ravenous animals, the population bore a nearer proportion to what it now is than it did for a ſeries of years previous to the rebellion in 1745. Since that memorable period, the population has decreaſed conſiderably, owing chiefly to two cauſes. The opportunity afforded young adventurers to traverſe the field of fortune, and throwing land into large farms. The amount of the preſent population of Duthil is 830, all of the eſtabliſhed church; males, 372; females, 458; annual average of births, 70; deaths, 15; marriages, 15; ſouls under 10, 150; from 10 to 20, 244; from 20 to 50, 295; from 50 to 70, 98; from 70 to 100, 43; farmers and families, 54; houſehold ſervants, 3; labouring ſervants, male and female, 230; one ſtudent at college. Formerly moſt of the gentlemen's ſons and of farmers ſtudied at college; but for 40 years paſt, they have become adventurers abroad. Number of perſons born in other pariſhes in Scotland, 141; number of gentry, 5. About 20 years ago there was a conſiderable number of very creditable gentlemen with families in this pariſh, moſt of whom have now become extinct; and the few remaining are ſoon likely to become ſo, their ſons preferring various purſuits abroad; batchelors, 3; each marriage, at an average, produces 7 children; inhabited houſes, 166; perſons at an average to each inhabited houſe, 5.

Agriculture, &c.—Cattle, at an average, are 1022; ſheep, 3424; horſes, 315; ploughs of the Scotch kind, and a few Engliſh, 105; carts, 260; arable acres, 2183; all under corn and potatoes, excepting a few under cabbage, turnip and ſown graſs; acres in meadow-graſs, 2467;

2467; acres in moſs and moor adjoining to the arable and meadow, 4650. What quantity of ground lies waſte, or in common, being the hilly part of the pariſh, I cannot aſcertain. At leaſt a third of the pariſh is under wood. The pariſh ſupplies itſelf abundantly with proviſions. The only articles of export are black cattle and ſheep. The real rent of the pariſh is about L. 1100 Sterling. There are but a few incloſures in the pariſh. The people murmur exceedingly at incloſures, their cattle having been accuſtomed to range promiſcuouſly through the year, excepting in the ſummer ſeaſon, and while the corns are on the ground.

Stipend, School, Poor.—The value of the living, including 2 glebes, is L. 67. The church was built in 1400, repaired in 1770. The manſe was built in 1704, rebuilt in 1763. Sir James Grant is patron, and the only heritor.—There are 2 ſchools, a parochial one, and the other eſtabliſhed by the Society for propogating Chriſtian Knowledge. The ſalary of the parochial ſchool is 100 merks. The ſalary and perquiſites will amount to about L. 12 Sterling. The number of ſcholars during the winter ſeaſon is about 30. In former years, when a number of gentlemen's families reſided, there were uſually about 70 ſcholars, ſome of whom were ſent yearly to the Univerſity. But the ſalary is now ſo inadequate to the expence of living, that no proper ſchoolmaſter can be had; ſo that the gentlemen are obliged to ſend their children, at a great expence, to diſtant counties to ſchool. The ſalary of the Society ſchool is L. 9 Sterling, with ſuitable conveniencies, furniſhed by the tenants, in whoſe diſtrict the ſchool is ſtationed. The number of ſcholars, at an average, does not exceed 20.—The number of poor receiving

ving alms is 16. The annual contributions for their relief do not exceed L. 5. There is no eſtabliſhed fund.

Prices, Wages, &c.—The price of beef, for a few years, has ſtood at 3½ d. the lb. formerly at 1½ d.; mutton now at 3 d. formerly 1 d.; butter, 12 s. formerly 5 s. the ſtone; cheeſe from 4 s. to 6 s. formerly 2 s. 6 d. Days wages of labourers in huſbandry, and common labourers, when married, 1 s. which is ſufficient to maintain a family. The fuel uſed is wood and peat, and is the moſt expenſive fuel in any part of Scotland, requiring the labour of the whole ſummer. Thus the farmer is under the neceſſity of neglecting the proper buſineſs of the farm. The uſual wages of male domeſtic ſervants are L. 6 a-year; female ſervants L. 3. They are entitled to ſeveral articles beſides wages, and engage only for a half-year, which is very diſtreſſing to the farmer. If ſome mode is not adopted to regulate the wages of ſervants, ſuch as reſtricting their wages to a reaſonable ſum, by the univerſal conſent of counties, the farmer muſt unavoidably fail. Servants during the ſummer, ſtroll about idly, and live upon their former half-year's wages, knowing that the farmer muſt yield to the higheſt terms when the harveſt approaches. The idea of preventing, or even diſcouraging ſervants from going to the ſouth country, ſo univerſally ſuggeſted, approaches too near to oppreſſion. Servants confeſs that their wages are beyond the profits of their labour, but when 1 or 2 farmers are neceſſitated for labourers, they are obliged to give high fees, and from this view numbers of ſervants lie in waiting. The increaſe in value of ſaleable articles might ſeemingly admit of an augmentation of rent. But letting the Hill-improvements to ſeparate poſſeſſors, having diminiſhed theſe articles, by reducing the number of cattle, and theſe too pinched in their paſture, ſtill the ſame number of ſervants

vants is neceſſary. It would therefore be of infinite advantage to the poſſeſſors of low farms to have the Hill-improvements alſo in their poſſeſſion, or portioned out upon the common paſture, though they ſhould pay the addition of rent. This obſervation, if applicable only to a particular diſtrict, would be foreign to the purpoſe; but it extends to a vaſt track of country; to the weſtern diſtricts of Aberdeen, Banff and Murray ſhires; and a great part of Inverneſs and Perth ſhires, which properly comprehend the Highlands of Scotland. Servants wages having increaſed ſo prodigiouſly, it is more advantageous to the farmer to employ cottagers or day labourers, for the purpoſes of huſbandry, where fuel and other neceſſaries can be conveniently had; but where it is otherwiſe, the difficulty of collecting fuel for the tenant's own uſe, and alſo for the cottagers, which would be neceſſary, if employed in his ſervice, would be unſurmountable. Employing cottagers or day labourers univerſally in this way, being generally married, would have the good effect of increaſing population, as well as ſubjecting ſervants to more tolerable behaviour, where they muſt neceſſarily be had. Still there is one particular abſolutely neceſſary to be obſerved, which, if not attended to, will be an unſurmountable bar to the farmer's induſtry. It is the proper regulation of the price of corn and meal; when meal can be had under 16 s. a boll, (144 lb. Averdupois,) the different claſſes of labourers become idly diſpoſed. The wages of 1 half-year will maintain them idle a great part of the year.

Roads and Bridges.—The roads and bridges have for ſome years been kept in repair, by ſtatute labour exacted in kind. The road from Grantown to Aviemore, 13 miles in length, was repaired in 1779 to 24 feet in breadth, being formerly 12 feet, by the country people,

at the requeſt of the proprietor Sir James Grant, without affecting the ſtatute labour of the year. Of which road there are 9 miles extending through the ſouthern limits of the pariſh, therefore, of no material advantage to the people of this country, chiefly accommodating the public. The bridges were originally built at the expence of the proprietor, one of which, a ſtone bridge of one arch, over the water of Dulnan, built in 1700, having now fallen into diſrepair, is completely ſupplied by a bridge built laſt ſummer, 1791, cloſe by it. A military road being projected by Duthil to Dulleybridge, than which, if executed equal to what of it is finiſhed, no road can be more complete. For the proper line of this road, the public are much indebted to the aſſiduity and attention of Colonel Montgomery, Inſpector General of military roads; having traverſed on foot a vaſt track of very rugged ground for that purpoſe, and thereby rendered the line at leaſt 4 miles ſhorter than that univerſally adopted, before Colonel Montgomery inſpected it, at the ſame time avoiding the expence of bridges, and the inconveniency of riſing ground. The objection to this line, which appeared to other inſpectors, aroſe from moſſes of immenſe depth intervening.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The general ſize of the people is 5 feet 6. The greateſt height which any individual in the pariſh has attained to, is that of a gentleman alive at preſent, being 6 feet 7, handſome and well proportioned.—They are extremely induſtrious, more properly laborious, in the cultivation of their poſſeſſions, ſuperſtitiouſly treading in the footſteps of their anceſtors, diſregarding every new mode of improvement, in which, unfortunately, this country is not ſingular. To emancipate from

a prejudice ſo univerſal and deeply rooted, will require ſtrong and uncommon exertions. The efforts of a native have hitherto had ſo little effect, that they only ſerve to verify, 'That a prophet has no honour in his own coun-'try.' The only effectual mode would be, by one or more ſtrangers of experience ſettling in ſuch diſtricts, as a neceſſity of this kind requires. Though proprietors, for a number of years, ſhould give the higheſt encouragement, the advantage in time would be immenſe.—Until of late, the people were very fond of a military life; but the wages of ſervants increaſing ſo exceedingly, that ſpirit is almoſt totally overcome. Formerly none would inliſt but in the Highland corps. Bounty-money now determines the choice. The people are ſufficiently œconomical, yet extremely hoſpitable and well diſpoſed. They enjoy the comforts and advantages of ſociety, as much as an inland country, and a ſevere climate, will admit of.—The ſituation of the pariſh in 1782 and 1783 was truly diſtreſſing. Had it not been for Government bounty, and Sir James Grant's large ſupplies from diſtant countries, the poorer claſs of people would have periſhed. So great was the deſtruction of the crop in 1782, by the froſt ſetting in ſo early as the month of Auguſt, that the moſt ſubſtantial corn which was ſent to ſome of the mills in this pariſh, was a crop of wild oats from a piece of ground which had been ploughed, but not ſown. From various obſervations made upon this kind of grain, it appears to be a ſpontaneous production; ſo that ſhould oats, by ſome calamity, be ſweeped off from the face of the earth, it might be regained by a proper cultivation of this ſpecies of grain, offenſive as it is. It will naturally occur to thoſe unacquainted with a ſevere climate, that early ſowing would, in ſome degree, prevent the fatal effects of froſt. This may anſwer in a favourable climate,

climate, but impracticable, where for moſt ſeaſons the ground is bomb proof in the middle of March, and mere puddle for ſome time thereafter. In 1680, as nearly as can be recollected, there was a famine in this and the neighbouring counties, of the moſt fatal conſequence. The poorer ſort of people frequented the church-yard, to pull a meſs of nettles, and frequently ſtruggled about the prey, being the earlieſt ſpring greens, which they greedily fed upon, boiled without meal or ſalt. So many families periſhed from want, that, for 6 miles in a well inhabited extent, within the year there was not a *ſmoke* remaining. Nurſing women were found dead upon the public roads, and babes in the agonies of death ſucking at their mother's breaſts. Numbers, to avoid the horror of their bodies being expoſed, finding the near approaches of unavoidable death, crawled to the church-yard, for the purpoſe of more immediate interment, that the earth, which denied them ſubſiſtence, might piouſly receive their remains into its boſom.—An augmentation of rent, the prodigious increaſe of ſervants wages, and letting ſmall improvements towards the ſkirts of the hills, called Hill-improvements, all concur as cauſes of great alteration in the cuſtoms and ſtyle of living of the inhabitants, within theſe 20 years. That emigrations, to an extenſive degree, have happened from a country where ſuch oppreſſion prevails, is not to be wondered at. Still emigration is no criterion to judge by, of the ſituation of a people. Whole tribes, who enjoyed the comforts of life in a reaſonable degree, have of late years emigrated from different parts of Scotland, from mere humour, and a fantaſtical idea of becoming their own maſters and freeholders.—The language principally ſpoken is the Gaelic, and the names of places are derived from that language; as *Craig-Elachie*, 'Rock of Alarm.' There are 3 rocks

rocks of the ſame name, one at each extremity of the country called Strathſpey, about 30 miles diſtant. Upon the approach of an enemy, the ſignal was ſent from the one to the other, for all fit to bear arms to appear at an appointed place. Hence the Grants motto, 'Stand faſt Craig-'Elachie.'—The only principal inn in the pariſh is at Aviemore. There are no ale-houſes. The number of houſes in which whiſky (a beverage which ſeems fit only for dæmons) is ſold, is 10. There were many more, until of late, when they were ſuppreſſed by the proprietor, upon finding the very bad effects on the morals of the people.

ROTHIE-

ROTHIEMURCHUS.

Name, Situation, Soil, &c.

THE pariſh of Rothiemurchus was united to Duthil in 1625. Sir James Grant of Grant is patron. The name in Gaelic is *Raat-mher-ghiuiſh*, 'great plain of fir.' It is ſituated in the county of Inverneſs, Synod of Moray, and preſbytery of Abernethy; extends 7 miles from E. to W. upon the ſouth banks of Spey; 4 miles in breadth. Bounded by the pariſh of Duthil on the N. from which it is ſeparated by the river Spey; on the W. by Kinguiſich; on the S. by Athol and Braemar; on the E. by Abernethy. The nature of the ſoil near the banks of Spey is deep and fertile; but, in general, is ſhallow. There is an inexhauſtible quarry, more properly a mountain, of limeſtone, in the centre, with abundance of fuel. There are 2 ſmall lakes, abounding with char. Lochnellan, one of them, exhibits a ſcene moſt pictureſque and romantic, and by the ſituation of the ſurrounding hills are formed 5 very remarkable echoes. Upon a ſmall iſland in Lochnellan, is a caſtle, built time immemorial; the walls of which are ſtill entire.—To the birds common in this country may be added, in the pariſh of Rothiemurchus, tarmagans, the only inhabitants, through all ſeaſons, of the tops of the higheſt mountains.

Population.—The amount of the numbers at preſent is 280, all of the eſtabliſhed church. Males, 130; Females, 150. Annual average of births, 30; of marriages, 5; deaths,

deaths, 12. Of ſouls under 10, 48; from 10 to 20, 63; from 20 to 50, 92; from 50 to 70, 46; from 70 to 100, 31; farmers and families, 9; houſehold ſervants, 3; labouring ſervants, 46; gentry, 5. Each marriage, at an average, produces 5 children.

Agriculture, &c.—Number of cattle, 180; ſheep, 2300; horſes, 95. There being a number of wood manufacturers, the pariſh does not ſupply itſelf with proviſions. The land-rent is L. 300; wood, at an average, L. 300.

School, Poor, &c.—The only ſchool is that eſtabliſhed by the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge. The ſalary is L. 10 Sterling. That, and the perquiſites, amount to about L. 15. The number of ſcholars ſeldom exceeds 30.—The number of poor is 7. The annual contributions for their relief do not exceed L. 3; and there is no other fund.

NUM-

NUMBER XLIII.

PARISH OF METHLICK,

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER KNOLLS.

Situation, Surface, Soil, River, &c.

METHLICK is in the preſbytery of Ellon, and Synod of Aberdeen. The extent of the pariſh from S. to N. is 5 miles, from E. to W. 6. It is bounded by the pariſhes of Ellon, Tarves, Fyvie, Monwhitter, and New Deer. The appearance of the country is rather hilly than flat. The hills are covered with heath, verdure, and crops of oats. The nature of the ſoil is neither very fertile nor very barren.—The ſmall river Ithan is the only one in the pariſh, and which falls into the ſea about 10 computed miles below, to the E. It produces excellent trout in great abundance, and now and then ſalmon are caught as far up as this, and would be often found here, were it not that there are cruives about 6 miles below. In the autumn, ſalmon come up this length to ſpawn, and abundance of pearl has been found in the river here. Ithan is a ſlow running ſtream; there are few fords in it below this, and it might be rendered navigable, at no great expence, for large boats.

Population.

Population.—The amount of the population is about 1035. Dr Webſter's ſtate is 1385. The males are 482, females 553.

The annual average of births is	20	Weavers,	5
——————— deaths,	17	Shoemakers,	7
——————— marriages,	10	Smiths, -	4
Heritors, -	1	Tailors, -	6
Farmers, - -	50	Houſes, -	209
Wrights, - -	5		

The cauſes of depopulation may be, 1ſt, The rents are much raiſed upon the farmers, who do all they can to make their ſubtenants pay the additional rent. 2dly, Servants wages are ſo high, that people who need them muſt put up with fewer than formerly. 3dly, The number of manufactures and manufacturers is ſo much increaſed, as to draw a great many hands from the country into towns, ſo that ſervants for agriculture are ſcarce.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The church was built in 1780, and the manſe in 1734. The ſtipend is L. 27 : 14 : 2 Sterling, 3 chalders of meal, 5 bolls and 5 pecks of bear.—There is only 1 ſchool, and the ſchoolmaſter's emoluments are very ſmall.—The number of the poor is 40. The annual amount of the contributions is L. 20; this includes penalties paid by delinquents; and there is a mortification for behoof of the poor of L. 333 : 6 : 8, bequeathed by Dr Charles Maitland. There is beſides L. 35 belonging to the ſeſſion, for behoof of the poor. A legacy of L. 20 was left lately.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The price of every article of proviſions is doubled within 40 years paſt.—The wages of day-labourers are alſo doubled within the above time, and are at preſent from 8 d. to 1 s. with their victuals. The

uſual wages for male ſervants are from L. 2 to L. 3 Sterling each half year, and for female ſervants L. 2 a-year. Within theſe 40 years they are doubled.—The people are of the middle ſize. They are very diligent and induſtrious. —The manufacture carried on here is that of knitting ſtockings, in which perſons of every age and ſex are employed, when other work does not interfere; this enables them to live tolerably well, and to pay their rents. They are generally frugal, more expenſive in dreſs than in diet. They are alſo a ſocial people; as one evidence of their being ſo, there may be ſometimes 60, 70, and ſometimes 100 at a wedding, to the expence of which the gueſts contribute, by ſending ſome milk, butter, cheeſe, poultry, &c. and ſome ſend ſtone plates and ſtone jugs.—The air is rather healthy than otherwiſe.—There is an excellent limeſtone quarry.—The roads and bridges over burns are pretty tolerable, and are made by ſtatute-labour.—The general ſize of the farms is ſmall; the higheſt rent paid in the pariſh is L. 105. The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 2700 Scots. There is very little ground in the pariſh incloſed, except what is in the poſſeſſion of the Earl of Aberdeen.—The crop in this pariſh in 1782 was very poor, and the meal it produced was in very ſmall quantity, and exceedingly bad; and had it not been for what Government allowed at a low price, part in meal, part in peas, there had been a great ſcarcity; and beſides, it was happy for the poor, that flour that year was cheap, for the poorer ſort did at that time uſe flour-bread, otherwiſe they would have been in danger of periſhing. Since that time, more potatoes are planted, and more turnip ſown, than formerly.—The pariſh, in general, beſides ſupplying itſelf, ſends many articles of proviſion to Aberdeen. —Seed-time commonly begins with March, and harveſt commonly ends with October. There are 50 ploughs, moſtly drawn by oxen. There was ſcarcely a cart 40 years ago;

ago; now almoſt every perſon has a cart who can afford to keep one. There are 6 meal-mills; there are 2 ferry-boats. The fuel is peat and turf.—About 100 years ago, there were 3 boys in the ſchool of Methlick killed by thunder; the ſchoolmaſter was much hurt; and the miniſter's wife then here, being with child at the time, was ſo affected upon hearing of this event, that the child ſhe brought forth ſome time after, was born paralytic, and continued ſo till her death.—There are only 2 ale-houſes. From the heavy tax on malt, there is great danger of the ale-houſes over all the country becoming dram-houſes. For ſometime paſt, the cottagers have gone to towns, having found their immediate maſters to be rather too hard upon them.

Dr George Cheyne, late phyſician at Bath, eminent in his profeſſion, and alſo as an author, was born in this pariſh. Dr Charles Maitland was alſo born and buried here. He was the firſt who introduced inoculation into Britain, and was ſent to Hanover by George II. to inoculate Frederick Prince of Wales.

NUM-

NUMBER XLIV.

PARISH OF KILBUCHO,

(COUNTY OF PEEBLES.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM PORTEOUS.

Name, Situation, Soil, &c.

KILBUCHO is ſaid to be derived from the Gaelic, and to ſignify the Cell of Bucho, but of whom nothing is known. The ſuppoſition of Bucho, being a corruption of Bede, would correſpond with a variety of traditionary reports, concerning that ſaint; as it is ſaid that a number of monks, of his order, ſettled here, and gave name to the church, &c. There is likewiſe an excellent well of water, called St Bede's. There are ſome beautiful banks ſaid to have been raiſed by the monks. The pariſh is about 4½ miles from E. to W. and 3 from S. to N. Although, on the weſt, it is ſcarcely more than 1 mile from Clyde, and about thrice that diſtance, on the eaſt, from Tweed, yet it belongs to Tweeddale. It is bounded by Culter on the W.; by Biggar and Skirling, on the N.; Broughton, on the E.; and Glenholm, on the S. Kilbucho is ſomewhat remarkable for 2 parallel ridges of hills, covered with heath and graſs, ſtretching from W. to E.; and for 2 vallies, on the N. of each chain of hills.

The

The heath on the hills is preſerved by frequently burning it; a tender growth ſucceeds, which is delicious and excellent paſture for ſheep. Carden, part of which is in the S. W. of this pariſh, is about 1400 feet above the level of the Tweed. The pariſh contains between 4000 and 5000 acres. The land is partly arable, and partly paſture ground. The ſoil is neither very good nor bad. There are 19 ploughs of land, and paſture for 200 ſcore of ſheep. The rental is little above L. 1000 Sterling a-year.

Population, &c.—According to Dr Webſter's returns, the numbers were 279. At preſent, the whole amount is 362. Of whom 187 are males, and 175 females. There are under 10, 105; from 10 to 20, 75; from 20 to 30, 50; from 30 to 40, 48; from 40 to 50, 37; from 50 to 60, 24; from 60 to 70, 13; from 70 to 80, 6; from 80 to 90, 4; from 90 to 100, 1 vigorous old man. For 2 years paſt, the births have been 21, and the burials 4. At an average, there are 62 houſes, and 5 perſons to a family. There are about 8 or 10 day-labourers. The tenants generally prefer ſervants hired for a year or half year. Day-labourers receive about 8 d. in ſummer and 6 d. in winter. Men ſervants, when married, get about L. 5 a-year, with their victuals, and a houſe; and L. 6, if unmarried. Thoſe who are unmarried are uſually preferred.

Stipend, School, &c.—The ſtipend is L. 43 : 7 : 4, and 48 bolls of victual, 2 parts oat-meal, and 1 part bear, with the uſual ſervitude of moſs, &c. Captain William Dickſon is patron. There are 3 heritors.—The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is L. 100 Scots, including the intereſt of ſome mortified money. The fees for teaching Engliſh are 1 s. the quarter; for Engliſh and writing, 1 s. 3 d.; and for arithmetic,

metic, 1 s. 6 d. As ſeſſion-clerk, he gets 6 s.; and 1 s. for every proclamation of banns.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—This diſtrict is at a great diſtance from coal. A good deal of peat is uſed for fuel. Attempts have been made to find coal in the pariſh, but have not as yet been ſucceſsful, it is thought, for want of perſeverance.—There are ſeveral incloſures, and leſs ground in tillage than in former times. The farmers rear and ſell a conſiderable number of ſheep. A conſiderable quantity of potatoes and turnip is raiſed here. Several good farm-houſes have been lately erected.—There is a tumulus in the N. E. ſide of the pariſh, another in the pariſh of Coulter, and a third in the pariſh of Lamington, all in a line weſtward, and about the diſtance of 3 miles from one another. They might ſerve as ſignals, by means of torches, along an extended plain, when hoſtilities ſubſiſted between England and Scotland. The Engliſh lay encamped on the hill of Corſcrine, in this pariſh, before the battle of Biggar.

NUMBER XLV.

PARISH OF ABERDOUR,

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT LISTON.

Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.

ABERDOUR, in Gaelic, ſignifies 'the mouth of the water.' The name is taken from a rivulet, which empties itſelf into the Forth, a little below the village. The pariſh lies in the Synod of Fife, and preſbytery of Dunfermline. It is bounded by the pariſh of Dalgety, on the W.; by thoſe of Beath and Auchtertoul, on the N.; by Kinghorn and Burntiſland, on the E.; and by the Forth, on the S.; being, at an average, about 3 miles from E. to W. and as much from N. to S. A ſmall part of the pariſh is detached from the reſt, by the intervening pariſhes of Burntiſland and Kinghorn, and lies at the diſtance of 4 or 5 miles. The number of acres may be about 5000. The pariſh is divided by a ridge of hills, running nearly from E. to W. The north part is a cold and bleak track, being conſiderably above the level of the ſea, and excepting what has been done by one of the heritors on the N. W. corner of the pariſh, altogether unſheltered, either by hedges or plantations. The ſoil is cold and ſour. On the ſouth

ſouth of this ridge, both the ſoil and the climate are much more kindly. The cold winds in Fifeſhire blow from the N. and the E. The Collello Hills, which form the above mentioned ridge, afford ſhelter on the N.; the Gorry Hills, and a track of high ground, on the E. Theſe fall gradually towards the W. running out into different branches, with little ſtraths between them. The ſoil here is generally a black loam, more or leſs mixed with ſand. The air is dry and healthy.

Agriculture and Rent.—The north part of the pariſh is but poorly cultivated. Little has been done in the way of draining or incloſing the fields. Where farms are ſmall and leaſes ſhort, little improvement can be expected upon poor lands. The ſouth part is well cultivated, and generally incloſed. The real rent of the pariſh may be above L. 2600 Sterling. The valued rent is L. 7015, 10 s. Scots. The beſt arable grounds are worth 40 s. the acre. Some of the lands about the village have been recently let at 50 s. and L. 3, 5 s. The farmers are 23 in number. They ſow their wheat in the months of Auguſt, September and October; beans and oats in March; barley in the end of April and beginning of May. Harveſt begins about the end of Auguſt, though it is not general till about the middle of September, and the crop is commonly got in by the end of October. The north part of the pariſh is conſiderably later. The old Scots plough continues to be uſed. *Small's* plough has been lately introduced. There are about 58 ploughs in the pariſh; 18 of which are upon the village acres. There may be as many carts as ploughs, and perhaps 160 horſes, and about 130 milk-cows. The rotation of crops obſerved by the farmers is various. Some ſow wheat, beans, barley and oats in ſucceſſion, after ſummer-fallow; others leaving out the oats, ſow graſs-ſeeds with the

the barley; ſome take wheat after drilled beans or potatoes, and then barley and oats; after turnips they ſow barley, and then oats with graſs-ſeeds. The pariſh in general exports wheat and barley, and imports oats and meal. The prices are much the ſame as in Mid Lothian, or ſomething lower. Farms are from 50 to 150 acres. There are about 200 acres planted in the pariſh. The trees thrive well, and much more may be done this way. The rugged ſpots, which are frequent, and generally covered with furze, if they were planted, would beautify the face of the country which they now deform.

Roads and Minerals.—The roads in this pariſh are generally bad, as in other parts of Fife. The gentlemen of the county are now paying attention to the direction and the formation of the roads. Toll-bars are erecting, and a great change for the better muſt ſoon take place. The village of Aberdour, like many others, has ſuffered by its cauſeway being changed into a common road. Such a road in a narrow village continues long moiſt, and is hurtful to the health of the inhabitants. They ſuffer great inconveniencies too, in winter, from the depth of the road, and in ſummer, from the duſt. Neither does a common road laſt in a village, being exhauſted by the attempts which are made to keep it clean. A paved cauſeway endures, and no inconvenience which the travellers can find from it, can balance the daily inconveniencies to which the reſidenters are ſubjected by the other. The pariſh abounds with coal, lime and free ſtone, and ſome iron ſtone. The coal is not wrought at preſent. The inhabitants are ſupplied with this neceſſary article from collieries in the neighbouring pariſhes. The price paid on the hills is 6 d. the load, of 18 ſtone, of chews or ſmall coal; the great coal is reſerved at preſent for the ſea-ſale. The limeſtone on the coaſt

is ſhipped at a commodious harbour, which the Earl of Morton has lately built for the purpoſe. It is a ſtone of a ſtrong and ſuperior quality. It is uſed at Carron for ſmelting. It is alſo diſpoſed of in ſhells, or ſlacked. The ſhells are put on board at 1 s. 0¼ d. the boll, and the ſtones at 2 s. 8 d. the ton.

Coaſt.—The pariſh ſtretches along the ſhore above two miles. From the eaſt boundary the coaſt is rugged and ſteep, and generally covered with wood to the water's edge. The trees have been planted with a proper regard to the variety of ſhade, and the jutting rocks which appear in different places, render the whole extremely pictureſque and beautiful. This wood is interſected with walks cut out on the face of the hill, from which the proſpects are rich and varied. On the weſt, there is a beautiful white ſandy bay, ſurrounded with trees. Here the grounds riſe gently to the weſt, bordered by thriving plantations; and ſtretching ſouthward, they terminate in a perpendicular rock waſhed by the ſea.—By this rock on the E. and by headlands on the S. W. the ſmall harbour of Aberdour is well ſheltered from all winds. The ſhipping at preſent conſiſts of a few ſmall veſſels. There is one ferry-boat to Leith, which is principally employed in carrying grain. The ſhipping here, as in moſt towns on the coaſt of Fife, was formerly much more conſiderable than at preſent. To the N. W. of this harbour, the ground again riſes into a little hill, covered with trees, above whoſe tops an obeliſk yet appears; beyond this, ſome corn-fields ſtretch to the weſtern boundary of the pariſh on the coaſt. The proſpects to the ſouth are beautiful. On the right hand lies the iſland of Inchcolm, with the ruins of its monaſtery. On the left appears the town of Burntiſland, which here ſeems to be ſeated on the ſea. The iſlands of Inchkeith, Cramond, Mickry

Mickry and Carcary, vary the appearance of the frith. The coaſt of Lothian is juſt diſtant enough to be ſeen with advantage. The city of Edinburgh and its environs riſe in view, and the diſtant Pentland Hills terminate the proſpect.

Village and Manufactures.—The village of Aberdour lies about a quarter of a mile from the ſea. It is quite ſurrounded by riſing grounds, except towards the ſouth. Between the village and the ſea are rich corn-fields, and the ſharpneſs of the ſea-air is kept off by a great number of fine old ſpreading trees. The venerable old caſtle of Aberdour, riſing amidſt trees, ſtands on the eaſtern bank of the rivulet, which, taking a winding courſe below it, falls into the frith in front. The ſituation is beautiful, and the proſpects from it magnificent. To the north of this ruin ſtands the houſe of Hillſide, commanding different views of the Forth, and exhibiting the richeſt and moſt diverſified ſcenes. Between this and the village, the rivulet runs in the bottom of a little rich ſtrath, and its borders in ſummer are covered with cloth and yarn, which gives a pleaſing idea of the induſtry of the people. There are 36 weavers in the village, who are employed principally in making coarſe cloths and tickings. The only manufacture for export is the coarſe tickings, of which there are made about 520 webs annually, of 70 or 80 yards each. There is a ſmall manufacture of ſpades, ſhovels, &c. lately erected in the pariſh. The great hammer is driven by water. There are about 15 tons of kelp made annually upon the coaſt and the iſland of Inchcolm.

Population.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter, the population was - - - - 1198
In the end of the year 1790, - - 1280
Males in the village, - - 368
In the country part, - - - 221
Females in the village, - - 472
In the country part, - - - 219
Total males, - - - 589
Total females, - - - 691
Aged under 10, - - - 320
between 10 and 20, - - 240
between 20 and 50, - - 482
between 50 and 70, - - 191
between 70 and 100, - - 47
They are all of the Eſtabliſhed Church, except 263 Seceders. The average of baptiſms is 32; of marriages 9; of deaths 23.

Inchcolm.—The pariſh of Aberdour belonged to the monaſtery of Inchcolm. This monaſtery was founded about the beginning of the 12th century, by Alexander I. in conſequence of a vow. Sibbald ſays, that the weſter part of Aberdour was given by one of the Mortimers to this monaſtery, for the privilege of burying in the church. There is a tradition, that the corpſe of one of the family was thrown overboard in a ſtorm, which gives name of Mortimer's Deep to the channel between the iſland and the ſhore, according to the account which I have from a gentleman connected with this pariſh. This weſter part of Aberdour, together with the lands and barony of Beath, are ſaid to have been acquired from an Abbot of Inchcolm, by James, afterwards Sir James Stuart, ſecond ſon of Andrew Lord Evandale, grandfather by his daughter to the admirable Crichton, and by his ſecond ſon, Lord Doune, to Sir James Stuart,

Stuart, who married the daughter of the Regent Murray. Lord Doune was Commendator of the monaſtery of Inchcolm at the Reformation. The whole of the above mentioned property, together with the iſland itſelf, is ſtill in the family of Moray, with the title of St Colme. The preſent Earl of Moray attempted to cover the iſland with trees, which would have increaſed its pictureſque appearance, but the attempt did not ſucceed.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The Earl of Morton is patron of the pariſh. The preſent Earl is a grandſon of James Earl of Morton, who was Preſident of the Royal Society. He was a Nobleman of diſtinguiſhed literature and abilities.—The ſtipend conſiſts of 63 bolls 3 firlots of meal, 50 bolls 1 firlot of barley, 15 bolls of oats, L. 200 Scots of money, and L. 5 for elements, with manſe and glebe.—The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is L. 100 Scots. The ſchool-fees are from 1 s. 3 d. to 2 s. 6 d. for Engliſh, writing, arithmetic and Latin. The ordinary number of ſcholars is from 60 to 90, or upwards. As ſeſſion-clerk, he has the perquiſites of 2 s. 6 d. for proclamation and regiſtration of marriages, and 10 d. for regiſtration of baptiſms.—The funds for the poor are from L. 25 to L. 27 a-year. During the general ſcarcity in the years 1782, 1783, the people were enabled to live by the generoſity of the heritors, who brought meal into the pariſh, and ſold it conſiderably lower than the market-price. To the poor it was diſtributed *gratis*.—There is an hoſpital in the village for 4 widows. It was founded by Anne Counteſs of Moray. The Earl of Moray and the Clerks to the Signet preſent the widows. The Earl of Moray preſents 3 of them, and the Clerks to the Signet the 4th.

Antiquities.

Antiquities.—Not far from the village of Aberdour, on a flat on the top of a hill, there is one of thoſe cairns or tumuli ſo frequently met with in Scotland. The farmer on whoſe farm it is ſituated, when carrying away the ſtones ſome years ago, diſcovered a ſtone coffin, in which were found the ſkeleton of a man, the head of a ſpear made of copper, with the copper nails by which it had been fixed to the ſhaft, and a piece of clear ſubſtance, like amber, ſuppoſed to have been an amulet. The coffin, with a great part of the cairn ſtill remain. The tumulus has been conical, the coffin being exactly in the centre of the baſe, from which, to the circumference, it meaſures 20 paces. The height cannot now be aſcertained. There have been found in the ſame cairn ſeveral earthen veſſels, containing human bones. The veſſels were flat, narrower at the bottom than top, and without any covering. The farmer digging in the ſame field, in another place, found ſuch a quantity of human bones, that he was obliged to deſiſt.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—It is ſaid that there were only three parſonages in Fife, Aberdour, Dyſart, and Balingry; and that there were only two nunneries in Scotland of the order of St Francis, the one at Dundee, the other at Aberdour; the field contiguous to the miniſter's garden bears the name of the Siſterlands to this day.—The people of Aberdour are ſober and induſtrious, are contented with their ſituation, enjoy in a conſiderable degree the advantages of ſociety, and while in health, they are able to maintain their families. In ſickneſs and in old age, many need relief.—Labourers receive from 8 d. to 1 s. 2 d. according to their ability; carpenters and maſons, 1 s. 6 d. tailors, 6 d. and their victuals; the wages of men ſervants employed in huſbandry, are from L. 5 to L. 8 a-year, with victuals, of women ſervants from L. 2 to L. 3, with victuals.

tuals. A good ſpinner on the two-handed wheel, may earn from 6 d. to 8 d. the day.—The food of the common people conſiſts principally of oat-meal, potatoes, garden-roots, and a little butcher meat. There are 5 alehouſes in the village. The people are fond of a ſeafaring life, and enter willingly into the navy. There are about 60 ſailors in the village. The common people here, and generally through Fife, are not fond of the army.—The village is in general healthy. A very epidemical fever appeared here June 1790, and continued till January 1791. It was not materially different from the fevers that are common in this country, except in the prevalency of it. It was more general than in any former period in the memory of man. Nearly a fourth part of the pariſh was infected during theſe 7 months. The frequency of this fever was ſuppoſed to proceed from two circumſtances, very favourable to contagion: Its commencing in the hotteſt ſeaſon of the year, and among the children at ſchool, who were crowded in a low damp room.—The croup ſometimes appears among the children, as it generally does in places near the ſea. It often proves fatal, unleſs aſſiſtance is immediately procured.—Inoculation is frequent, and ſucceſsful among the better ſort of people; yet the common people are ſtill averſe to it. This is not ſo much owing to their prejudices, as to their poverty. A workman, with a ſmall family, hath very little to ſpare to the ſurgeon.—It is aſked, what can be done to improve the condition of the people? One anſwer to this may apply to a great part of Scotland. There is no doubt but it would much improve the ſtate, both of the people and of the country, if the proprietors of land, where they have it in their power, were to give long and encouraging leaſes to their tenants. This uſeful body of men, who, by toil and expence, improve the fields, ſhould be enabled to live comfortably, and, by the induſtry of their

their youth, to lay up a proviſion for the ſeaſon of old age. To improve the condition of the people, care ſhould be taken to improve their morals; and particularly to eſtabliſh their virtue upon religion, the only ſtable foundation of good morals. The higher ranks of life might do much good in this reſpect. They who, by their practice, weaken the influence of religion among the people, do much hurt in ſociety; but they who give their countenance to religion, are public bleſſings, and do honour, both to the ſoundneſs of their own heads, and the goodneſs of their own hearts.

NUM-

NUMBER XLVI.

PARISH OF KILMADAN,

(COUNTY OF ARGYLE.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN MACKINNON.

Name, Situation, Soil, &c.

THE moſt ancient name of this pariſh is ſaid to have been *Glenduiſk*, ſignifying the 'Glen of the Black-'water.' Afterwards a battle was fought between Meckan, ſon of Magnus, King of Norway, and the Albuns or Gails, where it is ſaid the Norwegians were ſlaughtered on each ſide of a river called Ruail, which runs through the middle of the glen; and their bodies being thrown into the river, gave the colour of blood to it. Hence the pariſh got the name of *Glenderwell*, and the river the name of *Ruail*, which ſignifies the 'Glen of Red Blood.' Though the epithet *red* is unneceſſary to be added to blood, yet it is very often done in Gaelic. After the introduction of Chriſtianity into the country, the place of worſhip was conſecrated to St Modan, and called *Cella Modani*, or Kilmadan. This pariſh is in the preſbytery of Dunoon, and Synod of Argyle. It is 12 miles long, almoſt contained in the bottom of the glen, and a little more than a quarter of

a mile broad. It is bounded by Kilfinnan, Inverchallen, Dunoon, and Strachur. The pariſh is almoſt a flat, bounded by hills, covered moſtly with heath. The air is moiſt, the ſoil deep and fertile. The extent of the ſea-coaſt is about 3 miles; the ſhore is ſandy and flat for the moſt part. Cod, haddocks, ſyths, mackrel, and herring, are caught on the coaſt. The herring are ſold at 1 s. the hundred, when plentiful; they were ſent ſometime to Rotheſay, Greenock, and Glaſgow; they are beſt in Auguſt. Muſſels are the only ſhell-fiſh here; and wreck, the only ſea-weed manure. Little kelp is made. The tide ebbs between Bute and Kerry. The only bay is at the mouth of Ruail, very ſhallow and ſandy, and ebbs out 2 miles.

Population.—The population of the pariſh, about 40 years ago, muſt have been at leaſt 4 to 1 more numerous than at preſent. Dr Webſter's ſtate is 806. The number of inhabitants now, is about - - 351

Males, - - - -	172
Females, - - - -	179
The annual average of births, - -	18
——— of deaths, - -	14
——— of marriages, - -	4
Under 10 years of age, - -	70
From 10 to 20, - - -	86
From 20 to 50, - - -	118
From 50 to 70, - - -	67
From 70 to 100, - - -	10
Heritors, (4 of them reſide in the pariſh), -	6
Farmers, and their families, including graziers, -	42
Handicraftſmen, - - -	14
Apprentices and journeymen, - -	4
Seamen, - - - -	10

Male

Male labouring ſervants, - - - 25
Female ——————— - - 32
Foreigners, (from North America), - 1
Gentry, - - - - 3
Roman Catholic families, - - 1
The proportion between the annual births and the whole population, is as - - 18 to 351
Between the annual marriages and the whole population, is as - - - 4 to 351
Between the annual deaths and the whole population, is as - - - - 14 to 351
Bachelors, - - - - 3
Married men, including widowers, - - 90
Each marriage, at an average, produces between 4 and 5 children. A few are born in other diſtricts and pariſhes.
Inhabited houſes, about - - - 93

The population of the pariſh is diminiſhed nearly one-half from what it was 25 years ago. The cauſe is plainly this: The proprietors ſet their farms in a large extent to graziers, who can afford to pay a great rent; becauſe 1 man will herd the cattle on a farm which formerly ſupported 8 families. They find alſo the fewer farmers in a farm, the leſs that farm is burdened with the maintenance of families; and that a great number of farmers cannot pay the ſame rent that a few can. Some families leave the pariſh yearly; but for 20 years paſt, only 2 families belonging to it have emigrated from Scotland.

Produce, &c.—The pariſh produces oats, barley, peas, potatoes, turnips, rye-graſs, clover, garden-ſtuffs, fruit-trees, barren trees. There are between 5000 and 6000 ſheep,

1000

1000 black cattle, 109 horſes. The pariſh imports articles of proviſion. The ſoil is friendly to flax. This year the incumbent had 5 ſtone Tron weight of unheckled lint, upon 1 peck ſowing. The want of a lint-mill is a diſadvantage to the country. Seed-time is generally in April, and harveſt in September. There are 24 ploughs of the Scotch kind, and 28 carts. The land-rent may be about L. 1300 Sterling. The rent of the beſt arable land is between 15 s. and 20 s. the acre. The ſtate of this pariſh in the years 1782 and 1783, was not ſo bad as that of many others; but the crop in general, over the whole, ſuffered from the ſummer's cold and the wet harveſt. The poor were the better for the ſupply granted by Government.

Church, Stipend, Poor, &c.—The church was built in 1783 and the manſe in 1773. The value of the ſtipend, including the glebe, is L. 100 Sterling. The number of the poor is 20, the annual contributions for their relief, about L. 10 Sterling.

Prices and Wages.—About 30 years ago, 4 s. was a great price for a ſheep; at preſent, it is 12 s.; a cow at that time ſold at L. 1, 5 s. and now at L. 4 Sterling. Every thing elſe of meat kind is equally high in proportion. Meal is moſtly at the ſame rate it was then. Within theſe 20 years, ſervants and labourers have tripled their wages or rather quadrupled them. A ſervant man demands L. 8 Sterling, 4 pair of ſhoes, and his victuals: About 20 years ago, he would have been glad to get L. 3 Sterling a-year. A ſervant-maid L. 2, 10 s. Sterling, and her victuals, and 2 pair of ſhoes.

Miſcellaneous

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There is a mineral ſpring, once famous for curing the ſcurvy and other diſorders, but is not now reſorted to. There are 2 tumuli ſuppoſed to have been raiſed by the Norwegians, but have not been opened.—The river Ruail produces ſalmon, grilſe, trouts of different kinds, par and eel, but not in great quantity, ſold at 4 d. the pound; they are beſt between May and Auguſt.—There is moor and limeſtone. There is a great quantity of what is called pipe-clay in the pariſh. Peats are the common fuel, and for the moſt part very ill to be got, on account of the height of the hills, and bad acceſs to them. This is one of the greateſt inconveniencies to which the people are ſubject.—The inhabitants are much diſpoſed to induſtry, and it is a pity that ſome manufacture, eſpecially in the linen way, is not eſtabliſhed among them, as the ſoil is ſo favourable for flax. They are judicious, economical, and diſpoſed to generous and humane actions. They are not remarkable for ſize or ſtrength; ſome are 5 feet 6 inches, ſome 6 feet; the greateſt height known was 6 feet 2 inches. They are remarkably altered with regard to their dreſs within theſe 30 years; and their living is little inferior to their dreſs. The Gaelic is the language chiefly ſpoken.—The people are not averſe to the ſea. There is but one boat in the whole pariſh. Few or none have been in the navy, and none in the army, except in the Fencibles.—Property has changed three times in the the preſent century. Land ſold at 6 years purchaſe not 50 years ago. The people complain of high rents. Poor people get a houſe and garden for 10 s. a-year. The ſtatute labour is exacted in money. The bridges are built and repaired by the ſtatute money. Very little land is incloſed. —This pariſh gave birth to a very able mathematician, Mr Colin

Colin Maclaurin, late Professor of Mathematics in the University of Edinburgh, and also to a very eminent divine, Mr John Maclaurin, both sons of Mr John Maclaurin, once minister of this parish.

NUMBER XLVII.

PARISH OF MONIKIE,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR).

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM MAULE.

Situation, Soil, &c.

THIS pariſh is 6 Engliſh miles in length, and 4 in breadth. Its form is almoſt triangular, one of the angles terminating in the ſandy deſart ſituated at the mouth of the Tay. On the S. W. and W. it is bounded by the pariſhes of Monifieth and Murroes; on the S. E. by Barrie; on the E. by Panbride; on the N. by Carmylie, and on the N. W. by Inverarity and Tealing.—The face of the country is diverſified by ſeveral large hills. The ſoil and air are very various. The S. part of the pariſh is diſtinguiſhed for fertility. In the N. and N. W. the ſoil is more moiſt, the air colder, and vegetation more ſlow; inſomuch, that the inhabitants of the former have frequently their harveſt gathered in a month or 5 weeks before thoſe of the latter. The interpoſition of a large hill, or ridge of hills, called Camuſtoun, or Dunie, makes a conſiderable alteration in point of climate.

Agriculture.

Agriculture.—The rent of the beſt land is from 5 s. to 15 s. the acre, but that of ſome of the worſt has been recently 16 s. 8 d. Of the beſt land, the leaſes are old, having been let about 23 years ago, moſt of them for twice 19 years, and a lifetime, the rent riſing 1 s. the acre at the 20th year. At that period, little or nothing had been done in the way of improving land, and the tenants were in general poor; moſt of them are now in eaſy, ſome of them in opulent circumſtances; they are in general frugal and induſtrious. Of thoſe farms, one which happened to be let for only 19 years at L. 52 Sterling, and which conſiſts of about 170 acres, was let again within theſe laſt 4 years at L. 120; and the preſent tenant being a ſkilful and induſtrious farmer, is likely to make more money than the former, who laboured in the old way. Were the leaſes of the other farms expired, they could all be let for more than twice the preſent rent. In the ſouthern part of this pariſh, the farms are for the moſt part incloſed. Every farmer finding his account in breeding and fattening cattle, raiſes annually ſeveral acres of turnip. Wheat has long been cultivated in the ſouthern, and which is the moſt fertile part. For the laſt 6 or 7 years, the farmers diſcontinued the ſowing of this grain, ſeveral of them having met with conſiderable loſſes by blaſting. But they are now beginning to try it again, and have this year been ſucceſsful. Good artificial graſs is alſo produced. By an article in their tacks, moſt of the tenants are bound to have a third of their farms always in graſs. Much attention has of late years been paid to the raiſing of flax. About 25 years ago, when a great proportion of the ground conſiſted of natural paſture, every farmer had a large flock of ſheep. At preſent, there are not in this pariſh above 2 or 3 who have ſheep at all. In the N. and N. W. parts

of

of the parish, there are large tracks of moor, formerly waste and uncultivated, covered wholly with heath, insomuch that a person might have travelled a considerable way without seeing any other vegetable. At present those tracks contain plantations of thriving young wood. In a track of moor which forms the northern extremity of this parish, there are settled 15 or 16 families, who, by their industry, have rendered arable, and in some degree fertile, considerable spots of land formerly waste and barren. The valued rent of the parish is L. 4608 : 6 : 8 Scotch. There are about 23 considerable farms, some of which consist of more than 200 acres.

Population.—This parish contains 2 large villages, one of which having about 30, and the other 25 families, and 2 or 3 villages less populous. According to Dr Webster's returns, the numbers were 1345. The number in 1772 was 1033; at present it is 1278. There is reason to believe, that about the beginning and middle of this century, the parish was more populous. The diminution of the number of people is owing to the union of farms; the farmers also employ fewer hands than formerly. Many of the cottagers are exterminated. Since commerce began to flourish, several manufacturers, who subsisted partly by agriculture, have gone to large towns. The annual average of births for the last 10 years is 32. The annual average during a period of 10 years subsequent to 1718, and during 10 years subsequent to 1742, appears from a well kept register, to have been 41. For some years past, the annual average of deaths has been about 19. The number of marriages annually for 7 years past has not exceeded 13.

Church, Stipend, School and Poor.—The church ſeems to have been built or renewed in 1678. The manſe and offices are at preſent ſomewhat ruinous. The value of the living depending chiefly on victual is in different years different. During the 7 years of the incumbent's miniſtry, the ſtipend, at an average, has been L. 115 Sterling a-year. The manſe and glebe cannot be eſtimated, both together, at more than L. 10 or L. 12 Sterling.—The ſchoolmaſter's income as ſchoolmaſter, ſeſſion clerk and precentor, is about L. 35 Sterling a-year. The number of ſcholars is from 40 to 50.—The poor are in general well provided for. None of them are reduced to the neceſſity of begging. The number at preſent on the roll is 15. The annual average of collections is about L. 23 or L. 24 Sterling. There are of ſeat-rents belonging to the poor about L. 12 Sterling; and there is lying at intereſt at $4\frac{1}{2}$ *per cent.* 200 Sterling.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The roads in this pariſh at preſent are not in the beſt condition. That from Dundee to Arbroath, which interſects the lower part of the pariſh, is in bad weather almoſt impaſſable. There is a turnpike-road begun to be made, which, though a mile farther ſouth than the old road, yet being quite ſtraight, will ſhorten the diſtance between theſe 2 towns. About 7 years ago, a road was formed leading from Brechin to Dundee, and paſſing through the northern part of this pariſh. Upon this road there was built about 5 years ago, a ſtrong maſſy bridge, 55 feet high, with a ſingle arch, over a precipice at Denfiend, or the Fiend's Den, a place deep and winding. —Near the 8th mile-ſtone, E. from Dundee, there is a ridge of ſmall hills, called the Cur-hills, where within theſe 14 years

years ſeveral ſtone coffins have been found. In the vicinity of the ſame place, were found upwards of 6 feet below the ſurface of the earth, ſeveral trees, oak, fir and birch. There were alſo found urns, covered with broad ſtones, below which were aſhes, ſuppoſed to have been human bodies reduced to that ſtate by burning. To the ſouth of the Cur-hills were found ſeveral heads of deer, and horns of a very large ſize, among marl, about 9 feet below the ſurface.

Within theſe 3 or 4 years, there have been 5 or 6 large neat new houſes, and ſeveral ſmaller ones built. Every farmer almoſt has within theſe 10 years made ſome addition or improvement to his dwelling houſe, or to his offices.—There are 2 conſiderable inns in this pariſh, and ſeveral petty ale-houſes. The conſumption of ſpiritous liquors has within a few years greatly increaſed, the quality of the ale brewed in this part of the country being worſe than formerly; yet the morals of the people ſeem to have ſuffered little by the change. No buſineſs of any conſequence can be tranſacted by the common people but in the ale-houſe. But the vice of drunkenneſs, and the crime of theft, are in this and other parts of the country more rare than about 30 years ago, when the lower claſs of people having fewer objects to excite their induſtry, were more idle, and conſequently more profligate.—About 35 years ago, the wages of a ploughman were in this neighbourhood L. 2, 10 s. Sterling; of a carter L. 2; of a female ſervant from L. 1, 5 s. to L. 1, 10 s. At preſent, a ploughman is thought good for nothing, who does not receive L. 7 or L. 8. The uſual wages of female ſervants are from L. 3 to L. 4. About 30 or 40 years ago, a farm which is now worked by 3 ploughs, having each 4, ſometimes only

ly 2 horses, employed 5 cattle ploughs, having each 10 oxen. Farms where 2 ploughs drawn by 4 horses are now found sufficient, were formerly wrought by 3 ploughs drawn by 10 oxen.

NUMBER XLVIII.

PARISH OF CALDER,

(COUNTIES OF NAIRN AND INVERNESS.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER GRANT.

Name, Situation, Soil, Surface, Rivers, &c.

THE old name of the parish was *Borivon*, supposed to be derived from the Gaelic, *Brae Ewen*, or, 'Ewan's 'high country.' Calder is derived from *Coille*, a 'wood,' and *Dor*, 'water.' It is situated chiefly in the county of Nairn; a small part of it lies in that of Inverness; it is in the presbytery of Nairn and Synod of Moray. The form of the parish is not unlike the letter T. Its extent is about 4 miles from S. W. to N. E. The general breadth is not above 2 miles, but a part of it from the centre runs up to the high country about 7 or 8 miles. The parish is at the distance of 2 or 3 miles from the sea; bounded by Nairn on the N. by Auldearn and Ardclach on the E. by Moy and Duthil on the S. and Croy on the W. The low part of the parish is flat and level, the higher part hilly and mountainous, abounding with heath, moss and some wood.—The soil is sharp, fertile and friendly, but not wet or deep. The mountains which divide Calder from Moy to the S. are very

very high; are covered with heath, and abound with moſs. There is a good deal of hilly and rocky ground in the lower parts. A part of the low lands has ſometimes been laid under water, by the overflowing of the burn of Calder, and the water of Nairn. The moſt conſiderable inundation happened in 1782. The wood of Calder, and particularly the burn that runs through it, offers to the view the moſt delightful ſcenery. It runs in a dark and deep channel, ſo as to be loſt to the ſight, with high, ſteep and rocky banks on the eaſt ſide, covered with trees of all kinds, and the moſt beautiful ſhrubbery. The rapid river of Findhorn runs through the higher part of the pariſh, as does the river of Nairn waſh it below. Both theſe rivers abound with ſalmon and trout. Salmon about 12 years ago, and leſs, ſold at 1 d. and 1½ d. the pound, of late it has got up to 3 d. and even 4 d. The ſalmon is in high perfection in May.

Population.—There is every reaſon to believe that the pariſh is better peopled now than it was ſome years ago. Although the farms are enlarged, ſeveral ſmall ones being thrown into one, yet the number of improvers of moor and waſte lands is increaſing. Tradeſmen are more numerous, and ſo are cottagers. Dr Webſter's ſtate is 882. The pariſh may now contain about 850 perſons, above the age of 6; of which 400 may be males, and 450 females. The annual average of births is 23½ for the laſt 10 years; of deaths, 14; of marriages, about 9. There are about 20 perſons between 70 and 100 years of age. The number of farmers, and their families, is upwards of 60; of traders, dyers, carpenters, ſhoemakers, wheel-wrights, tailors, ſmiths, maſons, &c. upwards of 40, and about 20 apprentices. There are upwards of 150 labouring ſervants, including both

both ſexes; 2 ſtudents at the Univerſity; 1 perſon a native of Wales, and 1 of America. There are ſcarce above 20 here born in any other pariſh or diſtrict of Great Britain. There are 3 or 4 gentlemens families, only 1 Seceder, and 1 Epiſcopalian. The proportion between the annual births and the whole population, is about 1 to 37: Between the annual marriages and the whole population, about 1 to 94: Between the annual deaths and the whole population, about 1 to 60. Each marriage, at an average, produces 6 children. There has been no emigration of conſequence from the pariſh; but every other year there are ſome young lads, in the character of adventurers, ſervants, and apprentices, who go to America, London, Edinburgh, and other parts. There are about 160 inhabited houſes, and about 5 or 6 to a family. Only 1 perſon has been baniſhed from this pariſh in the memory of man.

Produce, &c.—Almoſt all kinds of vegetables and plants that are produced in the north of Scotland, are to be found here. Trees are the oak, alder, birch, mountain-aſh, aſh, elm, beech, larix, and other pines in great numbers. Horſes, about 420; black cattle, 2100; ſheep, 6300; goats, 400. There was a ſurvey and map made of the greateſt part of the pariſh in 1782; by which it appears, that the number of acres may be about 26,000, making a reaſonable allowance for what has not been ſurveyed. Of the above, 18,000 acres, at leaſt, conſiſt of moor and moſs. There may be about 1000 ſown yearly with barley, 2600 with oats and rye, 400 under potatoes, turnip, and flax, 500 let out in ley, without ſown graſs, there being little graſs-ſeed ſown in the pariſh; and the remaining acres under wood, broom, green moſs, and common paſture. The pariſh does more than ſupply itſelf with proviſions, and furniſhes a great deal

of

of oat-meal, in particular, to the neighbouring towns of Inverneſs, Nairn, and Fort George. It ſells a good many cattle and ſheep to the butchers in thoſe towns, and to drovers. It affords much barley to the diſtillers, of whom there are 2 in the pariſh. The rent of the pariſh is about L. 1200 Sterling. Some acres of arable land are let at 15s. an acre, and ſome ſo low as 2s. 6d. The ſize of the farms is very different, ſome conſiſt of upwards of 100 acres, and others below 40. There are not as yet many incloſures, but the tenants are ſenſible of the advantage of having their land incloſed, and ſome of the more opulent have begun to incloſe and fence. The ſituation of the pariſh in 1782 and 1783 was ſurely bad enough, though not ſo ill as in many places. The corns were not ſo much hurt by the froſt, of courſe, the crop was better, and few of the cattle died, having been maintained chiefly on the tops of whins, cut and threſhed, of which there are great quantities almoſt in every part of the pariſh. Oats are ſown the latter end of March, barley generally before the 20th of May; and they are begun to be reaped between the 1ſt and 12th of September.

Prices and Wages.—Beef, mutton, veal, and pork, are from 2½d. to 3½d. the pound. Hens 6d. geeſe 1s. 6d. to 2s. ducks 8d. turkies 2s. 6d. butter 12s. cheeſe from 4s. to 6s. the ſtone; barley has not been under 15s. for many years; meal is variable. It is to be obſerved, that in all theſe particulars, there has been a prodigious riſe of price ſince the 1780. A day-labourer may receive 6d. and perhaps 7d. a-day throughout the year, with ſome other advantages; ſuch as a houſe and garden, time to gather and prepare his fuel, an extraordinary allowance in harveſt, with liberty to plant potatoes, as far as any dung he can gather will

will go. This is found very ſufficient to maintain a family of 5 or 6 perſons, if the wife has any induſtry at all. Male farm-ſervants get from L. 4 to L. 6 in the year, and female ſervants from L. 1, 10 s. to L. 2. Domeſtic ſervants get a little more. A labourer in huſbandry gets 6 d. a-day, with his victuals. A carpenter, maſon, or other tradeſman, about 1 s. 4 d. or 1 s. 6 d. without victuals.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The church was built in 1619. The value of the living is about L. 80. Mr Campbell of Calder is patron. There are 2 heritors, but neither of them reſide. The manſe was built about 1730.—The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is a chalder of victual, half meal, half barley. The meal is paid by the tenants, and the barley by the landlord. The ſchoolmaſter receives alſo L. 1, or L. 1, 5 s. Sterling, as ſeſſion-clerk and precentor, 1 s. for every marriage, and 6 d. for every baptiſm. The ſchool-fees are 1 s. a-quarter for Engliſh ſcholars, 1 s. 6 d. for writing, and 2 s. 6 d. for Latin and arithmetic. In winter the ſchool is generally very throng, between 3 and 4 ſcore of boys and girls attend. The parents in general wiſh their children to read, write, and get ſome knowledge of arithmetic, but ſhow little deſire for the learned languages.—The number of poor is about 40. The annual contributions for their relief are only about L. 12. The poor have certificates to beg from door to door in the pariſh.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The pariſh has ſome very peculiar advantages. It is well furniſhed with water, wood, and fuel. It has within itſelf, or is in the cloſe neighbourhood, of mills of many kinds, not only meal-mills, but flour-mills, waulk-mills, lint-mills, barley-mills, and malt-mills. It is well ſtocked with tradeſmen of every kind,

and withal the landlord is the moſt indulgent of maſters. The air is remarkably ſalubrious. The rents of cottagers houſes, with a ſmall garden, are from 15 s. to L. 1, when paid in money, but are generally exacted in ſervices. It is found convenient to have cottagers in the neighbourhood. The are employed as day-labourers, and are extremely uſeful, particularly in the more buſy ſeaſons of the year. But the tenants would not chooſe to truſt to them alone for the whole work of the farm, preferring ſervants hired from term to term, as the moſt ſteady and fixed. But few ſervants can be prevailed upon to engage for a longer ſpace than half a-year at a time, which is often a great inconvenience. As to perſonal ſervices, they are almoſt in diſuſe, being only preſerved on a ſmall eſtate, and a wadſet held by a gentleman in the pariſh. Where they are ſtill continued, they conſiſt of various attendances and carriages. The tenants or ſubtenants aſſiſt their maſter in caſting and leading his peats; in cutting his corns, and bringing them home; in repairing his offices, in carrying his victual to market, &c. But Mr Campbell of Calder, the principal proprietor, has of late, in a moſt generous and humane manner, aboliſhed all ſuch ſervices and carriages on his eſtate, commuting them with the tenant at a very eaſy converſion; and has included the rent, ſtipend, ceſs, cuſtoms, in one ſum, payable by the tenant at 2 different terms, obliging him only to aſſiſt in leading materials for the church, manſe, and offices, ſchool-houſe, and for keeping the old caſtle in repair.—There is 1 inn in the pariſh, and 2 or 3 ale-houſes; but it does not appear that the morals of the people are in the leaſt corrupted by them. They are convenient for travellers, there being ſeveral public roads through the pariſh, but they are very ſeldom viſited by the pariſhioners. It muſt be allowed that the people are very

very induſtrious in their way. Their great induſtry in the ſummer, lies in preparing dunghills and their fuel, and in winter, in threſhing out and milling their corns.—There is no eſtabliſhed manufacture in the pariſh, but ſtill a great deal of work is done in the web-way in their families, both for home-uſe and for ſale. A number of the women are alſo occupied in ſpinning lint, given out by manufacturers in towns, for which they receive from 2½ d. to 3 d. the hank.—The inhabitants diſcover no particular propenſity for the military life, and very few inliſt in the army or navy. Luxury, in point of dreſs, ſeems to have crept in very much of late, owing to the high wages. The people in general are humane, moral, and religious. There are few quarrels or law-ſuits among them, and horning has ſcarcely been executed againſt any one in the pariſh for many years. They ſeem to be very much contented with their ſituation, and, as a proof of this, ſhow little or no deſire to leave the pariſh. But ſtill they would find themſelves more at eaſe, were their leaſes permanent, and the caprice, the wantonneſs, and high demands of ſervants, in ſome meaſure checked.—The roads are in a tolerable ſtate, being kept in repair by the ſtatute-labour, which is exacted in kind. The bridges are in good order, being ſo kept by Government, as the military road paſſes through the pariſh.—Erſe and Engliſh are equally ſpoken.—In place of ſome of the more obnoxious taxes of ſmall conſideration, laid on, or now laying on by Miniſtry, a ſtamp might be propoſed of a 6 d. on certificates to ſervants, from their maſters or miſtreſſes, when they leave their ſervice; to journeymen and ſhopkeepers, (not apprentices), clerks in offices, and the like, when they leave their employment; to all day-labourers, adventurers, handicraftſmen, and others, when they leave one pariſh and county, and go to another,

another, teſtifying, (where there is reaſon to do ſo), their honeſty, ſobriety, and peaceable behaviour; to be ſigned by the Miniſters, Juſtices, Sheriffs, or Magiſtrates; and that all theſe deſcriptions of perſons ſhould be obliged to carry along with them ſuch certificates upon every remove, otherwiſe be conſidered as ſuſpected perſons. Something of this kind, it is imagined, would be very productive, and would have a happy tendency in preſerving good order, and preventing many miſchiefs in ſociety. The ſtamp might likewiſe be extended to certificates to ſtudents, when they leave the Univerſity, from the profeſſors, atteſting not only their progreſs in literature, but their general good behaviour while there; to patrons, when they preſent, certifying their having qualified for that purpoſe; and to probationers alſo, when they accept, of their having taken the oaths to enable them to accept; in ſhort, to all who are by law obliged to qualify to Government, on their acceptance of any place or office; to all certificates, proving the identity and exiſtence of perſons, ages, marriages, degrees of propinquity, and the like. From the above might be excepted certificates granted to widows and orphans of all ranks and denominations; alſo thoſe granted to the poor, either recommending them to charity at home, or to hoſpitals, infirmaries, and any public donation; alſo certificates granted to perſons in ſickneſs, preventing their attendance at courts, aſſizes, or in any other way and place where their preſence is required by law.

All the ploughs are of the old Scotch kind. About 70 are in conſtant employment, and occaſionally in the ſpring there are more. The tenants have not as yet got any of the large ſhod-wheel carts and waggons; they uſe the ancient and ſtill common ſort of ſledges and carts.—A ſmall village

village was begun at Calder ſome years ago, but not improved to any height. It may contain about a ſcore of families, conſiſting chiefly of tradeſmen, labourers, and the ſervants who have the charge of the cattle.—Peat is the moſt common fuel. Wood, furze, broom, &c. are alſo uſed.

NUM-

NUMBER XLIX.

PARISH OF DESKFORD,

(COUNTY OF BANFF.)

By the Rev. Mr WALTER CHALMERS.

Name, Situation, Surface, &c.

ACCORDING to ſome, *Deiſh* ſignifies a "Linn or Lake." As there is a ſmall linn formed by a water-fall, a little to the north of the village, Deſkford may ſignify the ford near the linn. According to others, *Deſkford* is a corruption from *Cheſsfure*, which ſignifies "a cold ſouth," or a "cold place to the ſouthward." This alſo anſwers to the ſituation of the pariſh, as it lies ſouth from the ſea, and varies conſiderably in climate from the country along the coaſt. The worthy and ingenious Mr Lawtie, miniſter of Fordyce, thinks Deſkford a corruption from Decius's Fort. His opinion is founded upon a belief, that there was a Roman ſtation in the pariſh *. Deſkford was originally a part

* Mr Lawtie has formed this opinion from Roman coins found at Deſkford; remains of foſſes and roads; ſimilarity of ſituation to ſtations in England; exact diſtance between it and the ſtation at Rothes (Tuiſſis) as mentioned in Richard's Itinerary; ancient bridge over Spey on this road; ancient name of the water of Deſkford (Cullan) which is not more different from Selina (Deſkford) than Ituna (now Fyvie) from Ithen Æſaca (now Brechin) from Eſk, Devana (now Aberdeen) from Dee, &c.

part of the pariſh of Fordyce, and was included in Cullen, when that pariſh was disjoined from Fordyce; but the preciſe period when Deſkford was erected into a ſeparate pariſh from Cullen is not diſtinctly known. It appears from a decreet of ſtipend for Fordyce, that the Union ſubſiſted in the year 1618. The pariſh of Deſkford lies in the preſbytery of Fordyce, and Synod of Aberdeen. It is bounded upon the W. and N. by the pariſh of Ruthven, on the N. E. and E. by Fordyce, and on the S. and S. W. by Grange. Its length from N. to S. may be about 5 Engliſh miles; its breadth from E. to W. variable, but the greateſt about 3 miles. The form of the pariſh is that of a ſtrath, having hills on the E. and W. and a ſmall opening to the S. and N. The fields lie in a ſloping direction from the hills towards a ſmall river or burn, which runs in the hollow, and has its banks covered with a variety of natural wood. From ſprings in the hills on each ſide of the ſtrath, deſcend through the fields various rivulets, which empty themſelves into the burn, and which are beautifully edged with natural wood. In many of theſe rivulets are water-falls, which, in ſummer floods and winter thaws, deſcend through the trees with great impetuoſity, and exhibit many romantic and pictureſque ſcenes.

Hills.—Upon the E. ſide of the ſtrath is the Green Hill, which was formerly a commonty to the tenants, and afforded a rough kind of paſture. The late Earl of Findlater, who was the patron of farming, of manufactures, and of every meaſure that tended to the improvement of his country, tried to bring it into culture. With this view, it was incloſed and divided with ditch and hedge, belts of Scotch fir and alder planted, and a complete ſet of farmhouſes built; but after conſiderable expence, and repeated trials,

trials, his Lordſhip was diſcouraged. The bleak ſituation, the bad expoſure, the wetneſs of ſoil, owing to a pan beneath it, prevented the crops from filling and ripening. The incloſures are now let annually for paſture. The hedges, by great care and attention, thrive in ſome places; but the planting in the belts does not promiſe to ſucceed. The preſent Earl of Findlater, about 10 years ago, made trial of the larix fir in one of the incloſures to N. E. It thrives at preſent, and gives encouragement to proceed in planting under its ſhelter. Upon the W. ſide of the ſtrath, is a hill called *Old More*, which affords, at a moderate diſtance, a plentiful ſupply of excellent peat and turf. The late Earl of Findlater parcelled out the ſkirts of this hill into ſmall lots, and let them at a low rent; but the people are poor, and their improvements not ſubſtantial.

Soil and Produce.—The ſoil, along the lower parts of the Strath, is generally a loam, with a bottom of ſtrong deep clay, and produces wheat, barley, oats, peas, beans, and good crops of hay. Towards the hills, it is a light black ſoil, and under it, an obſtinate pan. Owing to this pan, in ſome places, and the clay bottom in others, the fields retain the rains long; which circumſtance retards the labour in the ſpring, and renders the crops late, eſpecially in rainy ſeaſons. In favourable ſeaſons, the tenants ſell conſiderable quantities of barley and oats to merchants in Portſoy, who export them generally to the ſouth frith. In the pariſh, there are ſpots of mooriſh and waſte ground, which might be improved to advantage. One of conſiderable extent adjoining to a farm, has been lately trenched and drained, at the expence of the heritor. This is a ſubſtantial and advantageous mode of improvement. It not only gives bread

to

to the induſtrious, and beautifies the face of the country, but perhaps proves more lucrative to the landholder, than an extenſion of property. In the lower grounds, the ſoil ſeems peculiarly adapted for the growth of planting; and had the famous Dr Johnſon directed his tour through Deſkford, and deigned to pull down the blinds of his carriage *, he would have ſeen many trees not unworthy of attention from the moſt prejudiced Engliſh traveller. In an orchard adjoining to an ancient caſtle, there is particularly an aſh-tree, which meaſures in girth 24 feet 5½ inches. It is called St John's tree, from its vicinity to a chapel of that name, to be afterwards mentioned. There is another aſh in the ſame orchard, which meaſures in girth 12 feet 3½ inches, having a ſhank 20 feet high, of nearly the ſame dimenſions. This aſh is called Young St John. There is alſo a holly tree, perhaps the largeſt of its ſpecies in this country. It meaſures, at the diſtance of 2 feet from the ground, 8 feet 4½ inches in girth. In ſeveral places of the pariſh, hedges have been planted; and they alſo thrive amazingly, when they receive proper care and attention.—There is a quarry of limeſtone at Craibſtown, which yields lime ſuperior in ſtrength and colour to any in the neighbourhood. It is conſequently in great requeſt, and affords a profitable employment to many of the tenants, in ſummer and autumn.

Church, and ancient Caſtles.—There is no date upon the church; one pew in it bears 1627, another 1630. It is ſituated nearly in the centre of the ſtrath, and, like the generality of churches in this country, is gloomy and miſerably furniſhed.—Cloſe by it is an old caſtle, called the Tower of

* It is ſaid the Doctor drew up the blinds of his carriage in paſſing through Cullen.

of Deſkford, and ſaid to have been built by the Sinclairs, who were the immediate predeceſſors of the Ogilvies in the property of the lordſhip of Deſkford. It appears to have been a pretty ſpacious building, in the form of a court; but there now remains only one room's length, vaulted below, with 3 ſtoreys and a garret. It bears no date.—Adjoining to this tower, there was formerly a chapel, called St John's Chapel, upon one of the walls of which there is an inſcription, bearing the name of Alexander Ogilvie, with the Ogilvies arms and motto, and dated 1551.—About a mile to the S. of the church, ſtands the caſtle of Skuth, but of late years become ruinous. It is delightfully ſituated upon an eminence riſing from the burn, having a peep of the ſea, and an extenſive view of the ſtrath. On each ſide are water-falls from the hill, deſcending between rocks and fertile fields, beautifully interſperſed with natural wood. This ruin is a ſtriking object to paſſengers, and a beautiful viſta to the ſurrounding inhabitants.

Manſe.—The manſe and offices, with ſlated roofs, were built about 5 years ago. The heritor gave a liberal allowance, indulged the incumbent with his own plan, and every accommodation he could deſire; and had the undertaker done his duty, it would have been perhaps a model of abundant and genteel accommodation; but the work, in every department, is inſufficiently executed. Such inſtances are too common, and they are exceedingly diſtreſſing, both to heritors and miniſters. The heritors juſtly complain of the hardſhip of incurring new expence, after recent and liberal expenditure; and miniſters muſt daily feel the grievance of inhabiting houſes that will not defend wind and rain. Neceſſitated to apply for repairs, they are conſidered as troubleſome, and ſometimes loaded with much unjuſt and

and illiberal abuſe. With a view to remedy theſe evils, along with the contractor, an overſeer ſhould be appointed, who ought carefully to inſpect the materials, and have a watchful eye over the work in all its ſtages. At leaſt, if this is objected to, it ought to be a clauſe in the contract, that the work is not to be judged of, nor the contract diſcharged, until the houſes have been inhabited for 12 months.

Stipend, Glebe, School, Poor, &c.—The glebe is about 4 acres arable, including the garden, with about $1\frac{1}{4}$ acres of graſs-ground. The preſent ſtipend is L. 44 : 15 : $3\frac{4}{12}$ Sterling of money, with 24 bolls 1 firlot of barley, and the ſame quantity of meal at 8 s. the boll. The Earl of Findlater is patron of the church, and ſole proprietor of the pariſh.—The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is L. 2 : 1 : 8 Sterling of money, payable by the heritor, and about 9 bolls 3 firlots of meal payable by the tenants. In ſummer there are generally about 30 ſcholars.—The number of poor preſently on the roll is 32. This uncommonly great number may be owing to the abundance of excellent moſs, which has induced them to ſettle in its vicinity. The funds belonging to them are, the intereſt at 5 *per cent.* of L. 1000 Scotch, the weekly collections, which may amount to L. 8 Sterling a-year, and 6 bolls of meal given annually by the heritor. Theſe afford only a ſcanty ſupply; but many of the women are able to earn ſomething by ſpinning flax, and the men by day-labour, ſo that few if any of them beg.

Population.—The return to Dr Webſter, about 40 years ago, was 940. At preſent the number of inhabitants is 752.

Males, - - -	359
Females, - - -	393
Heads of families, - - -	268
Children	

Children above 8 years,	171
Children under 8 years,	145
Male ſervants,	68
Female ſervants,	44
Weavers,	18
Shoemakers,	8
Tailors,	4
Wrights,	2
Cart and Plough wrights,	2
Wheel wrights,	2
Maſons,	3
Blackſmiths,	2

There are 46 perſons in the pariſh who do not properly belong to any of the preceding deſcriptions. There are 2 Roman Catholics; all the reſt Preſbyterians. The prevailing ſurnames in the pariſh are Reid and Lawrence. Of each there are 9 families. The decreaſe of inhabitants may be accounted for from there having been formerly a great number of crofters and ſubtenants in the pariſh, who ſubſiſted chiefly by manufacturing limeſtone. Since that time, many of the crofts have been added to the adjacent farms, and the tenants reſtricted to 1, 2 or 3 ſubſets, according to the extent of their poſſeſſions. A reſtriction in the manufacturing of lime alſo ſucceeded, in order to prevent the too rapid conſumption of moſs. Theſe circumſtances muſt have occaſioned the removal of ſeveral families from the pariſh.

State of Farming, &c.—Improvements in farming are making ſome progreſs. The horſe-hoeing huſbandry has of late been introduced with ſucceſs. There were about 20,000 cabbages managed in this way laſt ſeaſon. It is computed there were 150 acres in ſown graſs, 30 in turnips,

nips, 15 in potatoes, and 10 in lint. Though the ſoil in many places ſeems favourable for the growth of flax, it has not hitherto been extenſively cultivated. The cattle are of the Scotch breed, but conſiderably improved in ſize by the culture of green crops. Theſe are conſumed in rearing young cattle, which, from the ſituation of the country, is found more profitable, than in fattening thoſe that are grown. There are not many ſheep, the paſture being much confined by the improvements in the hills formerly mentioned, and what remains being wet, is rather againſt their proſperity. Some of the Engliſh breed, and of a croſs breed from them, are paſtured upon the farms. Thoſe which paſture on the hills are of a very ſmall ſize. The farms are ſmall; the largeſt not exceeding 100 acres arable, and the generality from 30 to 60 acres. The rent varies from L. 1, 10 s. to 2 s. the acre. The average may be 9 s. the acre. The leaſes are generally for 19 years, a term by far too ſhort for ſpirited exertion and ſubſtantial improvement. The generality of the houſes are poor and uncomfortable; and no allowance granted for meliorations. There are 2 meal-mills and 1 lint-mill in the pariſh. The real rent is computed to be L. 1000 Sterling a-year, including money, victual and cuſtoms.

Bleachfield.—In the north end of the pariſh, there is a bleachfield, rented by a manufacturer in Cullen, of about 10 acres in extent. At this field there are whitened yearly about 1500 pieces of cloth, and 1700 ſpindles of thread and yarn. Owing to a deficiency of water, the machinery is frequently wrought by horſes.

Services.—It is reluctantly to be obſerved, that the tenants are bound to perform many ſervices, ſuch as caſting, winning

winning and leading peats, ploughing and harrowing, making hay, cutting down corns, and various carriages. Theſe ſervices, though not exacted with rigour, are detrimental to the intereſt of the tenant, and conſequently to that of the landholder. They often occaſion interruptions to urgent domeſtic concerns, ſometimes prevent the ſeaſonable cultivation of the fields, and not unfrequently hazard the ſafety of their produce. It is aſtoniſhing, that heritors, in many reſpects liberal minded and indulgent to their tenants, ſtill continue this pernicious veſtige of feudal ſlavery.

Wages and Prices.—The wages of ſervants 'have increaſed, are increaſing, and, in the opinion of the farmer, 'ought to be diminiſhed.' A capable ploughman receives from L. 6 to L. 7; an inferior man-ſervant L. 5; and a female ſervant L. 2, 2 s. a-year. Theſe gains are not now, as formerly, laid up for future ſupport and proviſion, but generally expended upon dreſs, the deſire of which has obtained great prevalence among them within theſe few years. The following wages are given to other labourers a-day: To a man for caſting peats, 1 s. without victuals, in harveſt, to a man 10 d. and to a woman 6 d. with victuals; to a day-labourer 6 d. with victuals; to a maſon 1 s. 2 d.; to a common wright 8 d.; and to a tailor 6 d. with victuals. The prices of proviſions have increaſed very conſiderably within theſe 30 years. A hen, formerly bought for 4 d. now gives from 6 d. to 8 d.; beef and mutton ſell from 2½ d. to 3½ d. the pound; haddocks, which ſold within theſe five years at 2 d. the dozen, now give from 8 d. to 1 s. This great and ſudden riſe in value, is ſaid to be owing to a ſcarcity of haddocks along this coaſt for two years paſt. Butter ſells from 6 d. to 8 d. the

the pound, 24 ounces; and cheeſe from 4 s. to 5 s. the ſtone weight.

Roads.—There are 2 principal roads in the pariſh. Like the generality of roads in this country, they have been formed originally by far too narrow; are not kept in proper repair; and, from the nature of the ſoil, are very uncomfortable to travellers, eſpecially in winter and wet ſeaſons. They are wrought in ſpring and autumn by ſtatute-labour, which the people undertake with reluctance, and perform without care. Perhaps it would be better to levy the money along with the rents, and to employ labourers, under direction of an attentive and capable overſeer, during the ſummer ſeaſon.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The people are in general ſober, induſtrious, and regular in behaviour. There is but one ale-houſe in the pariſh, and which is little frequented. Though not rich, ſeveral of them are ſubſtantial in their ſtations. The late unfavourable ſeaſons, with the conſequent failure of crops, have reduced their circumſtances in ſome inſtances. Perhaps a total abolition of ſervices, an extenſion of their leaſes, and an allowance for building neat and comfortable houſes, would tend to meliorate their ſituation. In conſequence of their ſobriety and regularity, the people are prolific and long-lived. The wife of one of the elders brought him lately 3 daughters at one birth, who are all alive, and doing well. There are 3 families conſiſting of eight children each, and ſeveral of 7 and of 6. The laſt miniſter died about 10 years ago, in the 88th year of his age; and there are now living in the pariſh one woman aged 91, another 89, and a man 88.—The pariſh of Deſkford is a ſpot univerſally admired,

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on account of its natural beauties and ancient caſtles. Its vicinity to the ſea, and various internal advantages, particularly water, wood, moſs and lime, render it one of the beſt tracks in the north of Scotland.

NUM-

NUMBER L.

PARISH of PITTENWEEM,

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES NAIRNE.

Name, Situation, Soil, Air, &c.

THIS parish is situated in the presbytery of St Andrew's, and Synod of Fife. There is no doubt that coal was, in old times, wrought where the town now stands; and in the town there is a large cove, anciently called a *weem*. The pits produced by the working of the coal, and the striking natural object of the cove or weem, may have given birth to the name of the parish. Whether Pittenweem originally was a parish or not, is uncertain. The extent of the parish is about an English mile and a quarter in length, and about half a mile in breadth. It is bounded by the parish of Anstruther-Wester on the E.; by the same and Carnbee on the N.; and by St Monance on the W.; the frith of Forth bounds it on the S. The grounds in the parish are flat; the soil is in general black and loamy, and very fertile; the air is dry and healthy; the water remarkably soft, while that of the neighbouring towns is hard and brackish. The most prevalent distemper

among the inhabitants, is the *phthiſis pulmonalis*, or conſumption.

Fiſh, Shipping, &c.—The fiſh caught here have of late years been in much ſmaller number than formerly. Quantities are ſometimes ſent to the Edinburgh market. Within theſe few months, a plan was formed for catching turbot with nets, and ſo getting them alive to ſend up to London; but the trials have not been as yet very ſucceſsful. A conſiderable quantity of lobſters are caught here and in the neighbourhood, and ſent to London.—The people here are generally fond of a ſeafaring life, but few have entered the navy as volunteers. They in general diſcover an averſion to the army, and I do not think more than 2 or 3 from the pariſh have inliſted during the laſt 30 years. At preſent the number of boats is only 5, and of veſſels 4. From a record of the town, it appears that prior to 1639, the ſhipping here was conſiderable. From that year to the 1645, the town ſuffered greatly in that article. It appears from that record, that there belonged at leaſt to the town 13 ſail of large veſſels; all of which were either taken by the enemy, wrecked, or ſold in conſequence of the death of the commanders and mariners at the battle of Kilſyth.

Coal, &c.—The whole ſurface of the pariſh is ſuppoſed to cover a continued field of coal, which lies in a very extraordinary way, firſt taking one direction, then a contrary one, with different dipps. The property of it belongs to Sir John Anſtruther. When it began to be wrought is uncertain. It is believed to have been wrought by Oliver Cromwell, who took poſſeſſion of the Earl of Kelly's eſtate, of which it then formed a part; and a pit is ſtill to be ſeen, that goes by the name of Cromwell's pit. In paſt times, as much coal was taken out as could be procured without

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a fire engine. After the working had been long diſcontinued, Sir John Anſtruther, about 20 years ago, erected a fire engine, and has ſince that period put out an immenſe quantity of coal, and made ſalt to a large extent. There are 9 ſalt-pans. The average expence for the coal and ſalt working is about L. 50 weekly. The colliers are all free, ſtand engaged by the year, and are paid in proportion to the work they reſpectively perform. A good and laborious collier will earn about 18 s. a-week.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter, the number was 939. At preſent it is 1157, all reſiding in the town, except 4 families. Males, 541; females, 616; that is, nearly 30 females for 27 males. The diſproportion between the number of males and females, may be owing to a number of the young men betaking themſelves to a ſeafaring life; and there being no ſhipping here, although there is a ſeaport, many of them fix the reſidence for their families at the places from whence they ſail, and ſo ceaſe to appear on the pariſh-roll. Beſides, no manufactures being carried on in this place and neighbourhood, induces another claſs of young men to repair to thoſe towns where manufactures flouriſh, and to ſettle there. The females are generally ſtationary. The average of births is 37, of deaths 25; from which it appears, that multiplying births by 26, and deaths by 36, will produce numbers that would fall ſhort of the actual population.

From 1684 to 1690, the average of births is -	43
From 1699 to 1709, - - -	33½
From 1709 to 1719, - - -	34
From 1719 to 1729, - - -	38½
From 1729 to 1739, - - -	30½
From 1739 to 1746, - - -	28
From 1751 to 1761, - - -	21

From

From 1761 to 1771, the average of births is - 26
From 1771 to 1780, - - - 30
From 1780 to 1790, - - - 37

From this it appears, that the population at the end of the laſt century was greater than at preſent, and was double what it was at the middle of the current century. The failure of the herring-fiſhing, and of the French and Eaſt Country trade, diminiſhed, and the erection of Sir John Anſtruther's coal and ſalt works has increaſed the population. The average of marriages is 7.

The number of ſouls under 10 years of age, is - 260
From 10 to 20, - - - 200
From 20 to 50, - - - 439
From 50 to 70, - - - 224
From 70 to 90, - - - 34
The number of handicraftſmen, is - - 78
——— Of apprentices, - - 15
——— Of ſeamen, - - 72
——— Of fiſhermen, - - 12
——— Of miners and colliers, - 36
——— Of houſehold ſervants, - - 49
——— Of labouring ſervants, - 18
——— Of perſons born in England, and the Britiſh colonies, - - - 10
——— Of perſons born in other pariſhes, about 400
——— Of the Eſtabliſhed Church, - 1024
——— Of Seceders, - - 110
——— Of Epiſcopals, - - - 23

The population has increaſed very conſiderably within theſe 25 years, owing to the colliery and ſalt-works. The proportion between the annual births and whole population, is as 1 to 31; between the annual marriages and whole population, as 1 to 165; between the annual deaths and whole population, as 1 to 46; between bachelors and married

ried men, (meaning by a bachelor, a man at the age of 25, and a houſeholder), as 1 to 18. Marriages, at an average, produce about 4 children. The number of inhabited houſes is 185, and the average of inhabitants for each exceeds 6, and does not reach 7.

Agriculture.—Formerly the whole lands in the pariſh were employed in raiſing corn. Two-thirds of the ground was ſown with rough bear, and the remaining third with wheat, oats, peas and beans. Still a larger proportion of bear and barley is ſown than of any other grain. Of late years green crops have been introduced. Fields are laid down with clover and rye-graſs; cabbages and kail are raiſed in the fields, for winter food. The average rent of lands may be L. 1, 15 s. an acre. For the beſt, L. 2 : 12 : 6 is paid. The land is generally not incloſed, and the rent is ſuch, that the proprietors imagine the increaſe would not be a ſufficient compenſation for the expence of incloſing.

Stipend, Church, Poor, &c.—The value of the living, including the glebe, and converting the victual at 10 s. the boll (which is rather a low converſion) is L. 82. The patron is Sir John Anſtruther. When the church was built is uncertain. It certainly was not originally intended for a church. Concerning it there are two traditions, one of which is, that it was ſome of the cloiſters of an abbey, and the other, that it was the large barn or granary where the corns of the abbey were depoſited, which laſt ſeems probable. The manſe was built about the 1720, and received reparations afterwards. There are 22 proprietors, 7 of theſe are communities, viz. 3 kirk-ſeſſions, 2 ſea and 2 trade ſocieties; 10 of the heritors reſide in the burgh.—The number of poor in the pariſh is proportionally great. At the two laſt general diſtribu-

tions,

tions, upwards of 60 received charity. The funds for their ſupport, ariſing from lands and weekly collections, are from L. 50 to L. 60 Sterling yearly. The ſailors have a fund, conſiderably above L. 100 a-year, for the ſupport of their own poor. They are able to make a very decent proviſion for the widows, both of ſhipmaſters, and of common mariners. This ſociety obtained about 6 years ago a royal charter. The trades have likewiſe a fund for their poor, which I believe is about L. 20 a-year. There are other two charitable ſocieties, but they are ſtill in infancy, and their annual produce is inconſiderable, but from the nature of them they muſt grow. One of theſe ſocieties is formed by the people connected with the colliery. This ſeems to be a moſt laudable and humane inſtitution, as accidents often happen at collieries, and it were to be wiſhed that it generally obtained at all public works.

Prices and Wages.—The prices of proviſions are nearly doubled within theſe 30 years. Beef, veal, mutton, lamb and pork, are generally ſold at 4 d. the lb.; geeſe, at 2 s. 6 d.; ducks at 8 d.; hens at 11 d.; and rabbits at 3 d.; butter is generally 8 d. the lb.; grain is generally 2 s. the boll below the Mid Lothian fiars. The fuel made uſe of is coal, and the price of 400 weight is 1 s. 3 d. carriage included. The wages of domeſtic female ſervants are generally L. 2, 10 s. a-year.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The people in general are œconomical. Land is often changing proprietors, and the general price is 25 years purchaſe. The people do enjoy the comforts of ſociety, and are contented with their ſituation.—The roads in the pariſh are very indifferent. They

They are kept in repair by the ſtatute-labour, which is generally commuted. Laſt ſeſſion of Parliament paſſed a bill for turnpike roads in Fife, and the great road from E. to W. will paſs along by this town.—Kelp is made here, and the average quantity is 8 tons yearly.—The iſland of Mey, where a light is regularly kept, was a part of the priory, and is in the lordſhip of Pittenweem.—The principal bay neareſt this is Largo Bay, and the ſafeſt harbour is Ely, 2 miles farther up the frith than Pittenweem.—One of the fleet of the Spaniſh Armada came to this coaſt in great diſtreſs, and put in to the harbour of Anſtruther Eaſter, where the people were hoſpitably treated.—In the year 1779, Paul Jones, with his little ſquadron, lay for ſeveral hours off this harbour, about half a mile from the ſhore. The pilot and his crew went off, believing they were Britiſh ſhips, and requeſted ſome powder, which was given. The crew were permitted immediately to return, but the pilot was detained, treated very uncivilly, and was not ſet at liberty, until after the engagement Paul Jones had with our fleet.—There is a limeſtone loch to the weſtward of the town, which produces a conſiderable quantity of lime annually.—The cove or weem within the burgh is ſituated half way between the beach and an old abbey. It is large and capacious, conſiſting of 2 apartments. At the further end of the inner one, there is a well of excellent water. At the junction of the two apartments, there is a ſtone-ſtair, which carried you up a little way to a ſubterraneous paſſage, which led to the abbey, where was another ſtair, which landed in the great dining hall of the abbey. The two ſtairs ſtill remain; but of late years the ſubterraneous paſſage was deſtroyed, by the impending earth ſinking, and cutting off the communication. The ſubterraneous

paſſage,

paſſage, I think, might be about 50 yards in length. —Dr Douglas, the preſent Biſhop of Saliſbury, was born, and received the firſt principles of his education here. His father was in the mercantile line.—Pittenweem was conſtituted a royal burgh, by a charter from King James V. in 1547. In the town's charter-cheſt there are many old writings, which I cannot decipher. The following extract from their records I tranſmit:

'*Pittenweem, decimo-quarto Feb.* 1651.

'The bailies and council being convened, and having received information that his Majeſty is to be in progreſs with his court along the coaſt to-morrow, and to ſtay at Anſtruther houſe that night, have thought it expedient, according to their bounden duty, with all reverence and due reſpect, and with all the ſolemnity they can, to wait upon his Majeſty, as he comes through this his Majeſty's burgh, and invite his Majeſty to eat and drink as he paſſes; and for that effect, hath ordained, that the morn afternoon, the town's colours be put upon the bertiſene of the ſteeple, and that at three o'clock the bells begin to ring, and ring on ſtill till his Majeſty comes hither, and paſſes to Anſtruther: And ſicklike, that the miniſter be ſpoken to, to be with the bailies and council, who are to be in their beſt apparel, and with them a guard of twenty-four of the ableſt men, with partizans, and other twenty-four with muſquets, all in their beſt apparel, William Sutherland commanding as captain of the guard; and to wait upon his Majeſty, and to receive his Highneſs at the Weſt Port, bringing his Majeſty and court through the town, until they come to Robert Smith's yeet, where an table is to be covered with my Lord's beſt carpet; and that George Hetherwick have in readineſs of fine flour, ſome great

'great bunns, and other wheat-bread of the beſt order, 'baken with ſugar, cannell and other ſpices fitting; and 'that James Richardſon and Walter Airth have care to 'have ready eight or ten gallons of good ſtrong ale, with 'Canary, ſack, Rheniſh wine, tent, white and claret wines, 'that his Majeſty and his court may eat and drink; and that 'in the mean time, when his Majeſty is preſent, the guard 'do diligently attend about the court, and ſo ſoon as his 'Majeſty is to go away, that a ſign be made to Andrew 'Tod, who is appointed to attend the colours on the ſteeple 'head, to the effect he may give ſign to thoſe who attend 'the cannon of his Majeſty's departure, and then the haill 'thirty-ſix cannons to be all ſhot at once. It is alſo thought 'fitting, that the miniſter, and James Richardſon the oldeſt 'bailie, when his Majeſty comes to the table, ſhew the great 'joy and ſenſe this burgh has of his Majeſty's condeſcend-'ence to viſit the ſame, with ſome other expreſſions of 'loyalty. All which was acted.'

NUMBER LI.

PARISH OF DUNSE,

(COUNTY OF BERWICK.)

By the Rev. Dr ROBERT BOWMAKER.

Name, Situation, Soil and Air.

BERWICKSHIRE is nominally divided into three diſtricts, the Merſe, Lammermoor and Lauderdale. The Merſe is that flat part of the county, which is bounded by the river Tweed on the S. and S. E.; by part of Tiviotdale and Lauderdale on the S. W. and W. and by the Lammermoor hills on the N. W. and N. with the town of Berwick at the eaſt point. It is a plain of at leaſt 25 miles from E. to W. and 15 from N. to S. and takes the name of Merſe from being a border county. At the head of this plain, and in the very centre of the county, ſtands the town of Dunſe, encompaſſed on the W. N. and E. by the Lammermoor hills. Its name is derived from the old Celtic word *Dun*, 'a hill,' its original ſite having been on the top of a moſt beautiful little hill, which is called Dunſe Law. This hill ſtands upon a baſe of between 2 and 3 miles in circumference, and riſes in a gradual aſcent on all ſides, till it terminates in a plain of nearly 30 acres; the whole hill may contain about 250 acres. It is 630 feet above the level of the

the ſea. Afterwards the town was built at the foot of the hill, on the S. where it now ſtands. Dunſe is the preſbytery-ſeat of that name, and belongs to the Synod of Merſe and Tiviotdale.—The pariſh is an oblong ſquare of 8 miles from N. to S. and 5 from E. to W. It is bounded on the N. by the pariſh of Abbey St Bathan's, on the N. W. by Longformachus, on the W. and S. by Langtoun, on the S. E. by Edrom, and on the E. and N. E. by Preſton and Bunkle. That part of the pariſh which runs up into Lammermoor is hilly, and very much covered with heath; and thoſe tracks of it which are cultivated are, in general, a ſharp, gravelly, dry ſoil, on which the tenants grow very good barley, oats, turnip and clover. In the ſouth part of it, the ſoil is a rich, light, deep loam, ſome of it a ſtrong clay, and very fertile.—The air is dry and healthy. The ague was a very prevalent diſtemper about 40 years ago, and alſo the putrid fever, which laſt, in ſome particular years, cut off a great number of the inhabitants; but in conſequence of the rapid improvements in agriculture, begun at firſt by the gentlemen, and followed up with great ſpirit by the tenants, the country has been much drained, and the climate greatly changed. The cleaning of the ſtreets of the town, and of ditches in parks adjoining to it on the ſouth, has alſo greatly contributed to the health of the inhabitants. It may be remarked alſo, that 40 years ago, when the ague was very prevalent in the Merſe, it was not known in Lammermoor, nor is yet.

Dunſe Spaw.—There are no mineral ſprings in the pariſh. But there is one within a very few yards of the boundary, on the ſouth, in the eſtate of Mrs Carr of Niſbet, in the pariſh of Edrom. It is called Dunſe Spaw, from its vicinity to the town, being only a mile diſtant. It was diſcovered in 1747, and was very much reſorted to for ſe-

veral

veral years. Some years ago, it was repaired at the expence of a gentleman, who was cured of a ſtomach diſorder, by the Spaw water. This mineral water is nearly of the ſame kind with that of Tunbridge, the moſt celebrated chalybeate water in England. Dunſe Spaw, according to the analyſis of it, publiſhed by Profeſſor Home at Edinburgh, 1761, contains iron, ſea-ſalt, a marley earth, and fixed air, or what is called aerial acid. Like moſt other chalybeate waters, it does not carry well, unleſs the uſual methods are practiſed, in tranſporting the foreign chalybeate waters. Although the water may be thus carried to a great diſtance, without loſing its properties in a conſiderable degree, yet it muſt unqueſtionably be drunk with greater advantage on the ſpot. This water is found very ſalutary in complaints of the ſtomach, weakneſs of the inteſtines, diabetes, and a great variety of other diſorders. The beſt months for drinking Dunſe Spaw, are June, July, Auguſt, and September, when the valitudinarian, and perſons ſubject to chronic diſorders, may, by a courſe of theſe waters, reap every advantage to be procured by any chalybeate water whatever.

River.—The water of Whitadder abounds in trout, but of no high flavour, nor rich in quality. There is alſo in this river a larger ſort of fiſh, called a whitling; it is a large fine trout, from 16 inches to 2 feet long, and well grown; its fleſh is red, and high coloured, like ſalmon, and of full as fine a flavour; it is a moſt delicate fiſh, and affords moſt excellent ſport to the angler. It goes to the ſea in its ſeaſon, and returns ſtrong, vigorous, and healthy; but if, from the ſmallneſs of the river in a dry ſeaſon, it is prevented from getting to the ſea, it becomes lank, ſmall, and ſpiritleſs, and loſes its red colour and flavour. The Whitadder falls into the Tweed, about 12 miles E. from Dunſe,

and

and 3 miles above Berwick. From the Tweed, which abounds in fine ſalmon, a great many of theſe fiſh get into the Whitadder, and in the months of September and October are found 30 miles up that river, paſſing into the ſmall brooks among the hills in Lammermoor, till their backs are not covered, and there lodge their ſpawn among the gravel. No part of the Whitadder is rented, and the fiſhes are killed with the rod or liſter.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's report, about 40 years ago, the numbers were 2593. Within theſe 60 years laſt paſt, the number of inhabitants in the town of Dunſe has been doubled; and though the town has not in that time extended itſelf much to any of its wings, yet many empty ſpaces have been built upon, and many old houſes, which contained only 1 or 2 families, have been rebuilt upon larger plans, and now contain from 4 to 8, and ſome of them 10 families. There are ſcarce any veſtiges of old houſes. Many new ones have been built of late years, and ſeveral are now building. By a very exact liſt, taken 3 years ago, the number of ſouls in the town was 2324; in the country part of the pariſh, 1000. In all, 3324.

Abſtract of Baptiſms, Marriages, and Burials, for ten years.

Years.	*Baptiſms.*	*Marriages.*	*Deaths.*
1780	93	63	61
1781	84	59	85
1782	58	42	95
1783	114	47	59
1784	97	39	70
1785	89	44	30
1786	91	53	61
1787	86	32	64
1788	95	39	43
1789	98	37	51

In

In the 1782, the ſmall-pox raging, accounts for the number of deaths that year. In 1733, there were 130 children, who died of the ſmall-pox in the ſpace of 3 months. In 1783, one man died at the age of 99, whoſe baptiſm is recorded in the regiſter now before me, in 1684. Another, a pauper, died this year, aged 93. There are now living in the town 12 perſons, between 80 and 90. One 90, who ſupports his family by his own labour, and enjoys as good health, and has as fine a flow of ſpirits as any perſon at the age of 25. Another, in my own family, (my father), who was born the 4th of July 1694, and is at preſent (April 1791) in perfect health, and going about. There is 1 phyſician, 3 ſurgeons, and 8 gentlemen of the law in the town. There is an Antiburgher, a Burgher, and a Relief miniſter, whoſe congregations are made up of a mixed multitude from all quarters. Three weekly carriers to Edinburgh, 1 to Kelſo, 1 to Dunbar, 1 to Eyemouth, 2 to Berwick, twice a week.

Agriculture, &c.—There are 14 tenants in the pariſh, who rent from L. 100 to L. 300 a-year; and about the ſame number, who rent from L. 30 to L. 100. The pariſh is in general incloſed. The bondages to which the tenants were formerly ſubjected are now entirely done away; there is nothing but rent to be paid. Wheat, barley, and oats, are the principal crops of grain; turnips are raiſed in great quantities, and turn to good account, in feeding ſheep and black cattle, and let from L. 4, 4s. to L. 5, 5 s. an acre; and in the immediate neighbourhood of Dunſe, are let from L. 5, 5 s. to L. 7, 7 s. and are uſed in the town chiefly for milch cows. Cabbages are alſo planted in conſiderable quantities, and are more ſuitable for cows than turnips are, as they do not ſcour the cattle ſo much; and if the ſpoiled leaves of the cabbages are taken off, the milk, cream, and butter

butter will be as good as from graſs; beſides, the ſpoiled leaves may be given to young cattle, and nothing is loſt. Potatoes too are raiſed in great quantities, and the land for them is let from L. 4 to L. 6 an acre; the proprietor or tenant only ploughs it, and the renter cleans them, digs them up, and carries them home. A great deal of graſs-ſeeds are ſown annually, but little flax is raiſed, and no hemp. Very great improvements are making in the breed of ſheep and black cattle. In the S. part of the pariſh, the lands are let from 15 s. to L. 1 an acre; in the N. part, which is high ground, the land is not let by the acre, but a cumulus rent is paid for the whole farm. Such has been the ſpirit of improvement within theſe laſt 50 years, that farms in the pariſh, which were let at L. 35 and L. 40, pay now L. 210, and the tenants doing well. In no county of Great Britain is there a more reſpectable tenantry, than there is at preſent in the county of Berwick; many of them rent from L. 500 to L. 1200 a-year; men well informed in ſcience, and moſt intelligent and induſtrious in their profeſſion; and in every 10 or 15 years, ſome of them are purchaſing property of L. 200, and even L. 500 a-year; on which they enjoy, *otium cum dignitate*, the juſt reward of their attention, labour, diligence, and good ſenſe; and all this under the great diſadvantages, of being diſtant from 10 to 20 miles from lime and markets, and in a county where victual is cheaper than in any county in Scotland. There is plenty of marl, but lime, though diſtant, is conſidered as a cheaper manure. The county of Berwick exports from the ports of Berwick and Eyemouth, above 80,000 bolls of victual, and fully the ſame quantity is carried annually to the weekly markets of Edinburgh, Dalkeith, Haddington, and Dunbar. Land is ſold from L. 30 to L. 80 an acre. Houſes are rented from 10 s. to L. 20. Property does not often change, either in lands or houſes.

Manufactures.

Manufactures.—There are no manufactures carried on here to any great extent; an woollen manufacture is to be ſet on foot at Whitſunday firſt, the houſes are building, and the ſpinning machines are already brought from England. There is a very ſmall tannery; but it is in contemplation to have one ſoon upon a large ſcale by a ſubſcription, in ſhares of at leaſt L. 25 the ſhare, by the inhabitants. Hides to the extent of L. 400 a-year have been bought here by commiſſion, and ſent to Haddington, where they are tanned, the expence of carriage, L. 33. We have here a very large bleachfield.

Proprietors, &c.—The number of heritors is above 40, 12 of whom poſſeſs property from L. 100 to L. 2000 a-year in the pariſh; the reſt are ſmall portioners, from 1 to 30 or 40 acres; only a few of the principal heritors reſide. Robert Hay, Eſq; of Drumelzier is proprietor of one half of the pariſh; he reſides at Dunſe caſtle, a large ſtately venerable old building, ſituated about half a mile above the town, and commanding an extenſive view to the ſouth, as far as the Cheviot hills. It is ſurrounded with riſing grounds on the weſt and north, and the beautiful hill of Dunſe Law on the north eaſt. On the north and weſt too, are ſeveral hundred acres of thriving planting, much of it very old. In the boſom of this plantation is a fine baſon of water called the hen-pond; it is above a mile in circumference, and in ſummer vaſt numbers of wild ducks reſort to it.

Stipend, School and Poor.—The ſtipend is 66 bolls 1 firlot barley, 66 bolls 1 firlot oats, 64 bolls meal, and L. 40 in money, with 91½ acres glebe. Mr Hay of Drumelzier is patron. A moſt complete and excellent manſe was built in 1783. A new church is now building on a large ſcale,

ſcale, and moſt elegant plan.—The ſchool of Dunſe has long been in very great repute. The number of ſcholars is from 90 to 100, 60 or 70 of whom are learning the languages, the others are learning writing, arithmetic, mathematics, &c. The fees for the languages are 5 s. the quarter; 3 s. 6 d. for writing and arithmetic, and 2 s. 6 d. for Engliſh; book-keeping, and the higher parts of mathematics and navigation, are taught by the piece at a certain agreed ſum. The ſalary is L. 12, and a houſe well calculated for accommodating boarders. The board is only L. 16 a-year. There is alſo a female boarding ſchool, where every branch of female education can be got on the following terms: Reading and plain white ſeam together, at 5 s. the quarter; tambour and coloured work, and embroidery at 7 s. 6 d.; muſic at 10 s. 6 d. the month, or L. 5, 5 s. a-year; writing 5 s. and dancing 6 s. the month; board L. 16 a-year. The preſent directrix has a ſalary of L. 18 from the heritors, and other inhabitants, for a certain number of years.—The number of poor upon the roll is at preſent 90, the annual amount of the contributions for their relief is L. 230. There are no legacies, nor mortified money. The funds for their ſupport ariſe, 1ſt, from an aſſeſſment upon the lands, according to the valued rent, the one half paid by the landlords, and the other by the tenants; at preſent it is 12 month ceſs upon the lands. 2dly, The ſeveral incorporations pay quarterly into the fund, L. 3 : 9 : 6 Sterling. 3dly, The unincorporated, viz. the ſurgeons, lawyers, merchants, publicans, &c. are aſſeſſed annually by themſelves; that aſſeſſment at preſent is L. 3, 19 s. the quarter. The ſeſſion alſo pay a proportion of their collections weekly into the general fund. Theſe ſeveral funds are collected by an overſeer of the poor, appointed by the heritors. When at any time the fund is unequal to the expenditure, a meet-

ing of the heritors is called, and an additional aſſeſſment is laid on, (but only upon the heritors and tenants), proportioned to the demand. Every pauper who comes upon the roll muſt give in an aſſignation to all the effects belonging to them. The poor too are buried at the expence of the fund, amounting to 17 s. each, if adults.

Prices, Wages, &c.—About 50 years ago, the prices of proviſions were greatly below what they are at this time; butcher meat was not then ſold by weight, but when weighed after having been bought, was found not to exceed 1½ d. the lb. Dutch weight for beef, mutton, and pork; lamb was bought at 6 d. and 7 d. the quarter. At preſent beef and mutton are 4 d. pork 3½ d. veal from 3 d. to 5 d. and lamb, even in July, is never below 3 d. the lb.; at preſent (the beginning of April) it is 1 s. the lb. Wheat is from L. 1, 5 s. to L. 1, 12 s.; barley from 12 s. to 16 s. and oats from 10 s. to 14 s. the boll upon an average; but the Berwickſhire boll is a 24th part, or ½ peck in the boll, larger than the Linlithgow meaſure uſed in the Lothians. The farmers ſervants who have families, and engage by the year, are called hinds, and receive 10 bolls oats, 2 bolls barley, and 1 boll peas, which two laſt articles are called hummel corn, a cow grazed in the ſummer, and ſtraw through the winter, ¼ boll potatoes planted, ſome lintſeed ſown, with ſome other ſmall conſiderations, the whole amounting to about L. 13. A ſingle man ſervant receives from L. 6 to L. 8 a-year, with victuals, but few ſingle ſervants are now employed. Labourers, by the day, are paid 1 s. in ſummer, and 9 d. and 10 d. in the winter quarter; in hay-time, 1 s. 6 d. without victuals, except a bottle of ale at noon, and another in the afternoon, with ½ d. worth of bread to each. In harveſt, the wages of a man are from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d. with victuals,

victuals, thoſe of a woman, 10 d. and 1 s.. The wages of a maſon are from 1 s. 4 d. to 2 s. the day, a carpenter from 1 s. to 1 s. 8 d. The wages received by the different claſſes are fully ſufficient for the ſupport of their families; and ſuch as are ſober, and have been fortunate in getting induſtrious wives, ſometimes ſave conſiderably. When any fall into want from bad health or misfortune, they receive an interim aliment from the poor's funds; they are often relieved and ſupported by the voluntary contributions of the inhabitants at large. Upon the diſtreſs of any family, two of their neighbours, by going through the town with a ſubſcription paper, will, in a few hours, collect ſeveral pounds. Women ſervants have from L. 3 to L. 4 a-year. This being a border county, is the cauſe of the high wages of the labourers, &c.

Ale-houſes.—There are no fewer than 27 ale-houſes in the town of Dunſe, many of which are kept by low people, who do not depend upon their retail altogether, but who carry on, at the ſame time, ſome other profeſſion, or rather from a ſpirit of indolence, they keep an ale-houſe, to help the emoluments of the profeſſion they followed; which profeſſion, in conſequence of the habit of idleneſs and drunkenneſs which they have contracted, is ſoon in a great meaſure laid aſide, and the family reduced to beggary. It is, in conſequence of people of this deſcription keeping ale-houſes, that others of the ſame ſtation are induced, from old acquaintance with them, to frequent their houſes, and which frequently grows into ſuch a habit, as greatly to hurt the circumſtances, and diſturb the peace of their families. Beſides, 'tis in houſes of this ſort, that the profligate of both ſexes find lodging, where they get intoxicated, and from whence they ſally forth, in the dark hours of the night, to commit depredations on the innocent,

cent, virtuous and unſuſpecting members of the community. 'Tis in theſe houſes alſo that they depoſit the fruits of their depredations, and are furniſhed with means of future intoxication. It is a laudable practice (authoriſed by law) which ſeveral counties have of late adopted, not to allow any perſon to take out a licence to keep an alehouſe, without that perſon ſhall produce, from the miniſter, a certificate of his moral character. At the ſame time, we have publicans here, in high repute, who have the beſt accommodations, and where as good entertainment can be got as in any place in Great Britain.

Poſt-office.—Formerly the Dunſe bag came by Oldcambus to Dunſe, afterwards the office was removed from Oldcambus to the Preſs, and, of late years, has been removed to Berwick, by which circuitous conveyance, our Edinburgh letters are charged 4 d. inſtead of 3 d. in conſequence of the diſtance round by Berwick, being more than 50 miles. But though the bag for the convenience of the poſt-office is now ſent on to Berwick, and the diſtance by that means increaſed, there is no reaſon that we ſhould pay more for our letters now, than we would have done, had they continued to be ſent from the Preſs. Beſides, the letters to Kelſo go alſo by Berwick, which is farther from Berwick than Dunſe; the inhabitants of that town, upon an application to the General Poſt-office at Edinburgh, got a deduction of a fourth upon their Edinburgh letters, but the memorial from the town of Dunſe upon the ſame ſubject was treated with ſullen ſilence. The letters alſo have been accuſtomed to be delivered, time immemorial, to the inhabitants to whom they were addreſſed, at their houſes; but of late years the man who holds the office here, has made a demand of ½ d. more than the poſtage, for the letters delivered by him. We have

have preſented a memorial upon this alſo, to the Poſt-maſter General at Edinburgh, in which we ſhewed how the law ſtood, and the ſeveral inſtances in which it had been decided in the Courts of England againſt the poſt-maſters, but no redreſs has been obtained. We have at laſt ſent a copy of the ſame memorial to the Poſt-maſter General at London, with the different caſes referred to; and the only anſwer which we have got, which was in the middle of March, was, that the memorial was under conſideration: As that is likely to be all the anſwer which we are to get, we have reſolved to demand that juſtice from the laws of the land, which our fellow ſubjects have received, and which theſe offices have refuſed us.

Hills.—Cockburn Law riſes from a baſe of at leaſt 6 miles in circumference to a conical top, which, on the north and ſouth ſides, is a mile from the baſe, and is ſurrounded by the river Whitadder on 3 ſides. On the north ſide, and a little below the middle of the hill, are the ruins of a very old building, by ſome called Wooden's hall, but commonly called Edin's or Edwin's hall. It conſiſts of 3 concentric circles, the diameter of the innermoſt 40 feet, the thickneſs of the wall 7 feet, the ſpace between the innermoſt and the ſecond wall 7 feet, between that and the third or outer wall 10 feet; the ſpaces between theſe walls have been arched over, and divided into cells of 12, 16 and 20 feet long; they ſeem to have been of conſiderable height, but as all the roofs have long ſince fallen in, the height cannot be preciſely aſcertained. The ſpace within the inner circle ſeems never to have had any roof, as there are no fragments nor ruins there. The building is not cemented with any ſort of mortar; the ſtones, which are whin, and many of them very large, are all grooved into one another, that is, the concavity of the

the one receiving the convexity of the other, ſo that they are locked together, and yet all theſe locks are different: It is ſuppoſed to have been a Pictiſh building, and afterwards uſed as a military ſtation. What the original name was, we have no tradition of; but in after times, it has gone by the name of Edin or Edwin's hall, from a Prince of that name, who was King of Northumberland, and whoſe dominions extended as far north as the frith of Forth. From this Prince the city of Edinburgh took its name. It would appear that Edwin had taken poſſeſſion of this ſtrong poſt, for a military ſtation, for an army of obſervation, as the Danes were frequently invading Scotland, both by ſea and land. There are ſeveral of theſe military ſtations in this neighbourhood, both to the eaſt and weſt of Cockburn Law. This hill, being 900 feet above the level of the ſea, is a fine land-mark for mariners on the German Ocean, and is ſeen at a great diſtance from that ſea, conſequently any fleet from the north would be eaſily and readily deſcried from that ſtation.

Learned Men.—The celebrated metaphyſician and theologiſt, John Duns Scotus, was born in Dunſe in 1274. Camden, in his Britannia, and the authors of the Biographia Britannica contend that he was born at Dunſtone in Northumberland, but bring no argument, but their bare aſſertion to ſupport it. Nothing is more certain, than that the family, of which this extraordinary man was a branch, were heritors of the pariſh of Dunſe, and continued to be proprietors of that eſtate which now belongs to Mr Chriſtie, till after the beginning of the preſent century, called from them in all ancient writings Duns's half of Grueldykes. Theſe lands are adjoining to the town of Dunſe. The father of John Duns Scotus had been a younger brother of the family of Grueldykes, and reſided in the

town

town of Dunſe. The ſite of the houſe where he was born is ſtill well known, and has been in uſe, generation after generation, to be pointed out to the young people by their parents, as the birth place of ſo great and learned a man.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—In 1782-3, when victual was at a very high price, the heritors, and other inhabitants in good circumſtances, contributed very largely for the ſupport of the poor and indigent, and ſold at leaſt 20 bolls weekly, from the 3d of December 1782, to the middle of Auguſt 1783, at one-third below the market-price. The inhabitants are humane and generous to all real objects. They are alſo induſtrious and œconomical, and contented with their ſituation and circumſtances.—There is a public library in Dunſe, which was eſtabliſhed in 1768, conſiſting of about 60 ſhares, at L. 2 a ſhare, and 6 s. a-year; the ſhares are transferable, like any other property. From the original L. 2 for each ſhare, and the 6 s. alſo advanced for the year's reading, we were enabled to buy at once near L. 150 worth of books, and from L. 12 to L. 15 has been expended annually upon books ever ſince that period.—There are 3 great fairs in Dunſe. At theſe is a very great ſhew of fine cattle and horſes. At leaſt L. 20,000 Sterling is received for cattle at theſe fairs, which are chiefly purchaſed by Engliſh dealers. There is alſo a good deal of ſheep.—The roads were originally made and kept up by the ſtatute-labour, except the two great roads from Edinburgh to London, the one by Greenlaw and Coldſtream, the other by the Preſs and Berwick, which were made by ſums borrowed by the gentlemen of the county upon the turnpikes. The ſtatute-labour is now commuted at 7s. 6 d. each horſe, and 3 s. on houſeholders. The queſtion reſpecting turnpikes on the great roads to coal and lime, and the

the two ports of Berwick and Eyemouth, is now agitating among the proprietors, but not yet ſettled.—There was a conſiderable common in the environs of Dunſe, conſiſting of ſeveral hundred acres, a few years ago, that has been divided; by which a large piece of land, which had been for ages paſt an eye-ſore to every traveller, and of no value to any, is now an ornament to the neighbourhood, and profitable to many.—We have abundance of freeſtone quarries in the pariſh, and alſo in the neighbourhood, the rock lying from 3 feet to 10 below the ſurface. There is alſo an inexhauſtible fund of whinſtone within a mile of the town, all above ground, lying in immenſe large ſlabs, one upon another, and may be broken into the ſhape of flags, with the leaſt trouble, and of any ſize. We are 15 miles diſtant from coal, and bring them all from Northumberland, as alſo our lime.—On the 18th September 1790, was found, 3 miles S. E. from Dunſe, a bird very rare in Scotland. It was killed by a cat, and diſcovered to be the bird called Hoopoe by the Engliſh, Wedhop by the Germans, the Upupa of the ancients, deſcribed by Pliny, Ariſtotle, Pauſanias, Ælian, &c. The bird is common in Germany, and ſometimes even in England. A few days after, another Upupa, of a greener colour, was ſeen flying about the garden at Kimmergham, but ſoon diſappeared.—There is a very remarkable wall in the pariſh, incloſing near 100 acres of ground, called Borthwick Park, belonging to the family of Langton; it is of moorſtone, without any ſort of mortar, and never had any covering, either of ſod or any thing elſe; it has ſtood 179 years, and never was known to need any repair till within theſe 4 years; and though it is but low, yet, in conſequence of the unevenneſs of its texture, and the ruggedneſs of its top, neither horſes nor cattle ever ventured to leap it.

NUM-

NUMBER LII.

PARISH OF ALVAH,

(COUNTY OF BANFF.)

By the Rev. Mr GEORGE SANGSTER.

Situation, Surface, &c.

THE pariſh of Alvah is ſituated in the preſbytery of Turriff, and Synod of Aberdeen. Its form is irregular; extending in length about 6 Engliſh miles, and at its greateſt breadth to nearly the ſame diſtance, but in other places to only 3 or 2. On the N. and N. W. it is bounded by the pariſh of Banff; on the S. W. by Marnoch; on the S. by Forglen; on the S. E. by Turriff; and on the E. and N. E. by King Edward and Gamery. The river Dovern enters this pariſh about a mile below Forglen, the ſeat of Lord Banff, and after many beautiful windings through a very fertile valley, leaves it about 2 miles from the ſea. It abounds with ſalmon, trout, and eel, and is frequented by wild ducks, widgeons, teals, herons, &c. On the E. bank lie the eſtates of Dunlugas and Inrichney, ſeparated by the intervention of a part of the pariſh of King Edward; and on the W. the lands of Mountblairie, Auchinbadie, Sandlaw, and a ſmall part of

the barony of Alvah. About half a mile below the church, the river is contracted by 2 ſteep and rugged precipices, which are commonly denominated the Craigs of Alvah, where it meaſures about 50 feet in depth. The ſcenery, which is naturally bold and pictureſque, has been greatly embelliſhed by its noble proprietor, the Earl of Fife, by thriving plantations, and a magnificent arch, which unites both ſides of the river, and forms an eaſy communication between the oppoſite parts of his Lordſhip's extenſive park. The fruitful haughs along the banks of the river are ſubject to frequent inundations, which, in ſummer and harveſt, make dreadful depredations among the corns. This inconvenience is more eſpecially felt in the neighbourhood of the rocks of Alvah, which, during a flood, check the rapidity of the ſtream, and make the water flow backward for nearly 2 miles, and ſpread more than a quarter of a mile over the adjacent fields. As we recede from the river toward the W. the country becomes more hilly and barren. Of theſe eminences, one of the moſt conſpicuous is the Hill of Alvah, which riſes from the bed of the river to a very great height, and ſerves as a common landmark to mariners, on their approach to the coaſt. The majeſtic appearance of this mountain, which is ſomewhat increaſed by the view of the church, manſe, ſchool, and a farm-ſtead on its E. brow, is thus deſcribed by an indigenous poet.

Erigit ad nubes hic ſe mons Alvius ingens,
Oſtentatque procul conſpicienda juga.
Hic quoque Templa Deûm ſurgunt in monte locata
Sublimi; ſurgit Pieridumque domus.

Agriculture, &c.—The air of this pariſh is in general dry and healthy. Its ſoil, along both ſides of the river, is very fertile; deep on the haughs, and more ſhallow on the declivities.

declivities. Nor are there wanting fruitful fields on the upper grounds, interſperſed amongſt the rough paſtures and heath, which ſtill occupy a very conſiderable part. The crops which are commonly cultivated are oats, barley, and peas; and on ſome of the richer and more ſheltered ſpots, wheat has been tried with ſucceſs. Turnip, for 20 years paſt, has been ſown in the fields; and clover and rye-graſs have become a conſtant part of the rotation. Feeding for the butcher is carried on by a few; but rearing young cattle has of late years been found a more lucrative branch, and by conſequence more generally practiſed. As farms are not commonly let by the acre, it cannot be ſaid with accuracy what value is put upon each. The beſt arable ground may rent about L. 1, or perhaps ſomewhat higher; a ſtill greater quantity about 15 s. and much more about 12 s. or 10 s. and even below that value. There are only a few farms incloſed, nor does that mode of melioration keep pace with the other ſpecies of improvement. Hedges do not thrive, unleſs in places which are ſheltered, as well as fertile. Feal or earthen fences have been found of ſhort duration, and ſtone fences are expenſive. But, though incloſures are not ſo frequent as might be wiſhed, the practice of herding in winter is general; ſo that the turnip and ſown graſſes ſuſtain little detriment from ſtraggling cattle. Several of the farms are already brought to a very high degree of cultivation, and others are advancing by gradual progreſs to a like ſtate of improvement. About the year 1747, the miniſter began to bring home his peats in carts, valued each at 4 s. 6 d. Before that period the fuel was carried in creels, and the corns in curracks; two implements of huſbandry which, in this corner, are entirely diſuſed. The ſtraw brechem is now ſupplanted by the leather collar, the raſhen theets by the iron traces; and more is now

now expended on a ſingle cart, than would then have purchaſed both cart and horſe. The ſize of farms is increaſing, and of conſequence their number diminiſhes. We account one of from L. 30 to L. 50 rent, a middle ſized farm. There are a few above that rent, but many more below it.—This pariſh, unleſs in very bad years, produces much more grain than is neceſſary for the ſubſiſtence of its inhabitants. Beſides the farm-victual, which amounts to a very conſiderable part of the rent, there are large quantities, both of meal and barley, annually ſold by the farmers for the ſupply of the neighbouring town of Banff, and for exportation. In 1782 the crop was ſo defective, that, according to the computation of inſpectors, there was not grain within the pariſh ſufficient to ſupply it beyond the month of April. By the attention and generoſity of the heritors, and the bounty of Government, with L. 40 from the funds of the pariſh, the poorer ſort were ſupplied. The moſt curious fact relating to that alarming period was, that the oats on the earlier grounds, which ripened, were plump, and were found on trial to yield abundance of excellent meal, did not vegetate when ſown next year; whereas the oats on late grounds, which were green, and neither filled nor ripened, ſprang up with vigour. As this was not found out till too late, it proved of the greateſt detriment to the ſucceeding crop. The ſeed, which had been bought up at an enormous expence, miſgave; what might have greatly contributed to the ſupport of families, was unprofitably caſt into the ground; and what might have been profitably ſown, was ſent to the mill, where it made but a ſcanty return.

Population.—The numbers returned to Dr Webſter were 1161. As there are no pariſh regiſters previous to the

the year 1720, the ancient ſtate of its population cannot be aſcertained. From the records ſince that period, it ſhould ſeem that population is upon the decline.

Births, Marriages and Burials, for three different periods, viz.

7 years ſucceeding 1ſt Jan. 1720.	Births, 214.	Aver.	30$\frac{4}{7}$
	Mar. 32.	——	4$\frac{4}{7}$
	Bur. (no regiſt.)		
1ſt Jan. 1750.	Births, 137.	——	19$\frac{4}{7}$
	Mar. 44.	——	6$\frac{2}{7}$
	Bur. 52.	——	7$\frac{3}{7}$
1ſt Jan. 1780.	Births, 113.	——	16$\frac{1}{7}$
	Mar. 43.	——	6$\frac{1}{7}$
	Bur. 62.	——	8$\frac{6}{7}$

The marriages are reſtricted to thoſe where the huſband was a reſidenter; from the idea, that girls married out of the pariſh do not contribute to its population: But leſt this ſhould be deemed erroneous, it may be proper to notify, that the average of all, who were married during the firſt period, was 7$\frac{1}{7}$; during the ſecond, 9$\frac{3}{7}$; and during the third, 9$\frac{4}{7}$. In the year 1782, the number of pariſhioners, on an exact ſurvey, was found to amount to 1070; which is very nearly the preſent ſtate of it. Some years before it was rather greater. One principal cauſe of depopulation in this pariſh is, the eagerneſs of ſome improvers to take all their land under their own management; by which means mechanics, and even day-labourers are deprived of their crofts; and, as there are no villages within the pariſh, betake themſelves to other places, where they can find accommodation. Why the ſame number of marriages doth not produce an equal number of births as in former times, is left to more intelligent heads to explain? There have been no extraordinary inſtances

ſtances of longevity of late. Only one man has reached 100, and a few are on the verge of 90 years. The inhabitants are moſtly employed in agriculture. There are ſeveral weavers and wrights, a few ſmiths and tailors, and often not one ſhoemaker. They are regular attenders of the Eſtabliſhed Church; nor do the Diſſenters, of whatever denomination, exceed 8 or 10.

Heritors, Stipend, Poor, &c.—The property of the pariſh belongs at preſent to 5 heritors, of whom only 1 reſides. The manſe was built in 1764. The church is very old, and in bad repair. The ſtipend is 58 bolls 2 firlots 2 pecks oat-meal; 5 bolls 2 firlots bear; L. 600 Scots, with 50 merks for communion-elements. The glebe conſiſts of between 6 and 7 acres, of which the rough meadow ground has been drained and cultivated by the preſent incumbent, and the whole incloſed.—The yearly collections amount to about L. 15 or L. 16, which, with the intereſt of L. 120, and L. 1, 10s. the rent of ſome ſeats in the area of the church, conſtitute the whole funds for the maintenance of the poor.

Wages and Prices.—The wages of ſervants and mechanics, and the price of proviſions have riſen rapidly within theſe few years. The yearly wages of a man ſervant may be rated at L. 5, or L. 5, 10s.; and of a woman at L. 2. A labourer earns 8d. a-day. The price of beef, mutton, poultry, &c. is regulated entirely by the weekly market in Banff, of which an account will be given in the report from that pariſh.

Roads and Bridges.—The principal roads were made by the ſtatute-work, and are kept in repair by the ſame means.

means. It is commonly exacted in kind; but when commutations in money are more convenient for the people, they are accepted. Of late years, bridges have been built over the moſt dangerous paſſes, to the great accommodation and ſafety of travellers; and it is hoped, that, as ſoon as the funds can afford, more will be erected. Turnpikes are unknown in this corner of the country, and would undoubtedly be unacceptable at firſt; though the experience of their advantages might in time reconcile us. It muſt indeed be allowed, that, as the reſort on our roads is but little, they are not ſo neceſſary as on thoſe that are more frequented.

Antiquities.—There are few or no antiquities in this pariſh worthy of a place in hiſtorical records. At the farm of Bog of Mountblairie are the remains of an old caſtle, ſituated in a ſwamp now overgrown with alder, and ſaid to have been built by the Earl of Buchan; and on an eminence above it, the ruins of a chapel, adjoining to which is a well, famed of old for its ſovereign charms, but now fallen into diſrepute. Within theſe few years there was an iron laddle; and many ſtill alive remember to have ſeen the impending boughs adorned with rags of linen and woollen garments, and the ciſtern enriched with farthings and boddles, the offerings and teſtimonies of grateful votaries, who came from afar to this fountain of health. At the foot of the hill of Alvah, towards the north, is another ſpring, which paſſes by the name of Com's or Colm's well, in honour, very probably, of the renowned Saint of Icolumkil.

NUM-

NUMBER LIII.

PARISH OF STRATHMIGLO,

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. Mr GEORGE LYON.

Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.

STRATHMIGLO is ſo called, as being a ſtrath or valley on both ſides of the water of Miglo, which runs through it from W. to E. and then takes the name of Eden. It is in the preſbytery of Cupar, and Synod of Fife. It is $5\frac{1}{2}$ Engliſh miles long, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ broad, bounded by the Lomond Hill on the S. and on the N. by a branch of the Ochil Hills; and by the pariſhes of Portmoak, Orwell, Arngoſk, Abernethy, Auchtermuchty, Kettle and Falkland. It is partly flat, and partly hilly. The ſoil on the N. ſide of the water is generally moiſt, but tolerably fertile; on the S. ſide dry and ſhallow; but in the eaſtern part of the pariſh, on both ſides of the water, it is deep and fertile. The air, through a great part of the year is rather moiſt, but not unhealthy. The moſt prevalent diſtempers are fevers, attributed to the moiſtneſs; but they are not frequent, and ſeldom mortal. There are no remarkable mountains. The hills are covered

vered with graſs. A bed of freeſtone runs along the S. ſide of the water of Miglo for about 3 miles, and is uſed for building houſes and incloſing ground. There is no other found, except a white ſtone on the N. ſide of the Lomond Hill, which admits of a fine poliſh, and is uſed by the richer ſort of people for hearthſtones, the corners of their houſes, and lintels for doors and windows. A kind of moorſtone is ſometimes uſed for incloſing ground with what they call a Galloway dike, or open ſtone-fence.

Population. — By Dr Webſter's report, the numbers were 1695 *. In the year 1754, when I was ordained miniſter of the pariſh, there were about 1100 perſons in it, and this year (1790) there are about 980, of whom about 470 are males, and 510 are females. From the 1ſt of October 1783, when the regiſter began to be better, though not exactly kept, to the 1ſt of October 1790, the number of births has been about 225, of burials about 136, and of marriages about 95. There is but one inſtance of a very long life well authenticated, that of one James Beveridge, who lived to 110, and was 7 times married. There are 26 farmers, whoſe families may conſiſt of 182 perſons in all: About 50 manufacturers, 46 handicraftſmen, 24 apprentices, 29 houſehold and 50 labouring ſervants, 4 merchants, and 110 inhabitants in the town of Strathmiglo. There are about 266 born in other diſtricts or pariſhes in Scotland. There are 19 heritors; 12 of whom, among which are 2 families of gentry, reſide. There is one writer. About 750 are of the Eſtabliſhed Church, about 228 Seceders, and 2 Epiſcopalians. The population of the pariſh is materially different from what it was 25 years ago, and the decreaſe is attributed chiefly to the throwing 2 or 3 ſmall farms into one, and the aboliſhing of cotteries; for, though ſome of the cottagers

* Probably a miſtake of the pen for 1095.

take houſes in the town of Strathmiglo, others go and reſide in towns, where the encouragement to manufactures is greater. Each marriage may produce, at an average, 5 children; none have died from want; no murders or ſuicides have been committed; few have emigrated, and none have been baniſhed; if any have left the pariſh, it was not for want of employment. There are about 245 inhabited houſes. At an average, 4 perſons may be to each inhabited houſe. A few are uninhabited.

Agriculture, &c.—The number of cattle may be about 500, of horſes 190, and of ſheep 300. Within theſe few years, great improvements have been made in agriculture. There are about 54 ploughs, all of the common kind; 74 carts, and 2 carriages. The pariſh ſupplies itſelf with proviſions for common uſe; but at the ſame time, it both imports and exports.—26 years ago there were only 2 incloſures in the pariſh, and now there are about 63, and many of them large. Great part of the pariſh is now incloſed. The people generally ſow in April and May, and reap in Auguſt and September. There is only one wood about 3 quarters of a Scots mile in circumference: One piece of marſhy ground, about a quarter of a mile long, and very narrow: One lake, about a quarter of a mile in circumference; and no river except Miglo, which is very ſmall. The pariſh has no peculiar advantages or diſadvantages that I know; except the advantage of being in the immediate neighbourhood of hills for the rearing of ſheep. The land-rent may be about L. 2926 Sterling. The rent of houſes cannot be exactly aſcertained, as they are of ſuch different dimenſions; but a houſe of 2 ſtoreys may rent at L. 3, 4 s. Sterling, and of 1 ſtorey, if of equal length and breadth, at L. 1, 16 s.

Stipend.

Stipend, Poor, &c.—The living, including the glebe, is, at the ordinary converſion of victual, L. 105, 13 s. Sterling. Lord Stormont is patron. The church was built about 5 years ago, and the manſe 2 years ſooner.—There are 8 poor families, who receive monthly penſions, beſides ſome others, who have occaſional relief. The ordinary annual amount of the weekly contributions is about L. 8 : 12 : 4 Sterling, and the produce of alms, and other funds deſtined for that purpoſe, is about L. 23 : 3 : 4.

Prices, Wages, &c.—Butcher meat 30 years ago was about 2½ d. now 4½ d.; and ſo on as to other articles; a boll of wheat 15 s. now L. 1, 1 s.; of barley 9 s. now 14 s.; and of oats 8 s. now 12 s.—A day's wage for a labourer in huſbandry and other work, is generally 1 s. without victuals, and 8 d. with them; and ſo on as to other profeſſions.—The fuel commonly made uſe of is coal. The price on the coal-hill is 7 d. for the load, which is reckoned 16 ſtone. They are procured from Balgonie, Balbirnie, Lochgellie, and Kettle—I cannot exactly ſay what the expence of a common labourer, when married, at an average may be; but if he has 3 or 4 young children, it may be about L. 16, 12 s.; and if he and his wife are in health and vigour, his wages, with any little ſhift his wife can make, and it can be but little while the children are very young, is ſufficient to bring up his family. The uſual wages of a farmer's principal male ſervant, are L. 8 Sterling; of an under male ſervant, L. 4; of a female ſervant, L. 2, 5 s.; and of a domeſtic female ſervant, L. 2, 10 s.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There are only 2 villages. The people are generally of the middle ſize. The talleſt man I ever heard of, and whom I knew, was about 6 feet 5. They are in general diſpoſed to induſtry and œconomy.

No

No manufactures are carried on, except by individuals. They are not fond of a ſeafaring or military life. Property, particularly in land, does not often change. It ſells, at an average, at about 26 years purchaſe. The people are as much diſpoſed to humane and generous actions, as others in their circumſtances generally are. On the whole, they enjoy the comforts and advantages of ſociety, and ſeem contented.—The county roads and bridges are in tolerable good order, and are kept in repair by aſſeſſments in money and ſtatute-labour, exacted in kind. There are no turnpikes. The general opinion is, that if the money raiſed by them is properly applied, it is the only effectual way to make good roads and bridges, and keep them in proper repair.—The farms in general may be at an average of about 150 acres, and the average rent about 10 s. an acre. The number of farms is diminiſhing rather than increaſing.—The manners of the inhabitants are much the ſame they were 36 years ago, civil and obliging; but their dreſs and ſtyle of living are very different. At that time, though the rents the farmers paid were very low, they and their families were in general coarſely clad, and lived in a mean ſtyle; but now that the rents are greatly raiſed, in ſome places of the pariſh doubled, and in one farm almoſt tripled, the farmers are in appearance richer, and their families dreſs and live much better.

NUMBER LIV.

PARISH OF ROW,

(COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN ALLAN.

Name, Situation, Soil, Fiſh, &c.

THE name *Row* is a Gaelic word, and ſignifies 'a 'point.' Very near the place where the church is ſituated, there is a pretty long point running out into the ſea.—The pariſh is ſituated in the preſbytery of Dumbarton, and Synod of Glaſgow and Air. It is between 13 and 14 miles in length, and about 3 in breadth; bounded on the E. by the pariſh of Cardroſs; on the N. E. by Luſs; on the N. W. by Lochlong; on the W. and S. by the Gareloch, which ſeparates it from Roſeneath, and the frith of Clyde, which ſeparates it from Greenock. The E. end of the pariſh is pretty flat, the greateſt part of it hilly, and towards the N. E. mountainous. The ſoil in general is light, and where it is properly cultivated, pretty fertile. The air is ſharp and healthy. Fevers are the prevalent diſtempers. The ſea-coaſt extends about 12 miles, for moſt part flat and ſandy, but in ſome places high and rocky.—Salmon, haddocks, ſmall cod, whitings, ſmall flounders, and ſometimes mackerel and herring, are caught in the lochs before

before mentioned, the quantity not great. Salmon is ſold at 6 d. the pound, tron weight, at an average; mackerel, ½ d. a piece; haddocks, &c. 1½ a-pound. The beſt ſeaſon for ſalmon is from the beginning of April to the end of July; mackerel, in June and July; haddocks, from December to March; cod and whitings, in the ſummer months. Salmon, herring, and mackerel are taken with nets; the other kinds of fiſh with long or hand lines. The town of Greenock is the principal market. A ſpecies of whales, called Bottle-Noſes, have ſometimes run a-ground during the tide of ebb, been taken, and oil extracted from them. Porpoiſes and ſeals are likewiſe to be ſeen occaſionally. Seaware is uſed all along the coaſt for manuring land, and kelp is ſometimes made, but in very ſmall quantities. Twenty or thirty years ago, all the hills were covered with heath; but ſince the introduction and increaſe of ſheep, the heath has gradually leſſened, and the hills begin to have a green appearance.

Population.—At the time of Dr Webſter's report, the numbers were 853. About 50 or 60 years ago, it appears the amount of the population was about 1300. The preſent amount is about 1000. The number of males 486, of females 514. It appears from the regiſter, that there are more males than females born; but many of the young men leave the pariſh in queſt of employment, ſome as ſailors, others as tradeſmen or ſervants. There is one village in the pariſh, lately built, which contains about 100 ſouls. The annual average of births, from May 1. 1760 to May 1. 1770, is 40; from May 1. 1770 to May 1. 1780, 34; and from May 1. 1780 to May 1. 1790, 33. There was no diſtinct regiſter of burials prior to 1783, nor can the number of deaths in it be exactly aſcertained now that it is kept; becauſe ſome of the people have their

their burying places in the neighbouring pariſhes, and ſome from other pariſhes are brought here. The annual average, however, may be about 14. The annual average of marriages from May 1760 to May 1770 is 7; from May 1770 to May 1780, 9; and from May 1780 to May 1790, 10. There are in the pariſh 65 farmers, their families are about 325 in number. There is only 1 family of Seceders. The population, as hath been already obſerved, has decreaſed theſe laſt 10 or 20 years, owing to many of the farms being now poſſeſſed by 1 tenant, which were formerly occupied by 3, 4, and ſometimes more, each of whom accommodated a cottager; beſides, ſome of the farms have of late years been entirely kept under graſs, and no tenant upon the grounds. Each marriage, at an average, produces about 6 children.

Agriculture, &c.—There are from 4500 to 5000 ſheep; the average price of white wool is 7s. the ſtone, and the wool laid with tar 5s. The pariſh does more than ſupply itſelf with proviſions, Greenock is the market for the overplus of grain and potatoes, Glaſgow, Paiſley, Port-Glaſgow, Greenock and Dumbarton, for beef, mutton, &c. Oats and peas are ſown from the 20th March to the firſt week in May; potatoes from the middle of April to the 20th of May; bear from the 10th of May to the 8th or 10th of June. The crops are reaped in general from the beginning of September to the 20th of October.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The value of the living, including the glebe, is about 100 guineas. The Duke of Argyle is patron. The church was rebuilt in the year 1763. The manſe in 1737. There are 8 heritors; 1 ſmall proprietor reſides conſtantly, and another occaſionally.—There are 2 ſchools; the ſalary of the parochial

ſchoolmaſter

ſchoolmaſter amounts to L. 80 Scots; during the winter he generally has from 30 to 40 ſcholars, in ſummer about half that number; his emoluments, including ſeſſion-clerk dues, ſcarce amount to L. 18 Sterling a-year.—About 30 years ago, one of the then heritors of the pariſh, Mr Glen of Portincaple, mortified a piece of land for the ſupport of another ſchoolmaſter; the number of ſcholars taught by him is conſiderably greater, and his emoluments at leaſt equal to the parochial one.—There are at preſent 8 poor who receive regular ſupply, and about the ſame number occaſionally. The funds are the weekly collections at the church-door, amounting to from L. 10 to L. 12 a-year, together with the intereſt of about L. 220 of ſtock, L. 50 of which was lately bequeathed by Robert Carmichael, Eſq; of Broomley, a late proprietor in the pariſh of Bonhill.

Prices, Wages, &c.—The preſent price of beef, veal, and mutton, is 6 d. the pound, tron weight; in harveſt, and beginning of winter conſiderably cheaper; butter, from 9 d. to 10 d. the pound; cheeſe, from 4 s. to 6 s. the ſtone; a hen, from 1 s. to 1 s. 3 d. Theſe articles of proviſions have doubled in price from what they were 40 years ago. Bear ſold, winter and ſpring 1791, at from 16 s. to 18 s. the boll; oats at 16 s. and oat-meal at from 1 s. to 1 s. 1 d. the peck.—The wages for labourers in huſbandry are from 10 d. to 1 s. a day. The uſual wages of men ſervants employed in huſbandry, are from L. 8 to L. 9 a year; females, from L. 3 to L. 4.—The fuel commonly made uſe of by the tenants, is peat or turf, which is cut in the moors of the reſpective farms. Coals are likewiſe brought from the neighbourhood of Glaſgow, the price of which is greatly increaſed of late years.

Miſcellaneous

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There are ſeveral remains of Popiſh chapels. Within theſe laſt 20 or 30 years, there have been found in different places, 4 ſtones ſet upon edge, with a large flag covering them, the opening about 4½ feet by 2½, in which human bones were depoſited.—The people are fond of a ſea-faring life; during laſt war, from 25 to 30 able bodied ſeamen, from this pariſh, were employed in the navy. But they are not fond of a military one.—The people in general are not expenſive, a few individuals are much addicted to dram drinking; and the young people, eſpecially the females, fond of dreſs, and more expenſive in that way than their circumſtances can well afford.—There are about 11 ale or rather whiſky houſes; one properly called an inn, being one of the ſtages on the line of road, lately made by the Duke of Argyle, between Inveraray and Dumbarton.—Engliſh is generally ſpoken, but many underſtand and frequently converſe in Gaelic.

NUMBER LV.

PARISH OF COLDSTREAM,

(COUNTY OF BERWICK).

By JAMES BELL, D. D.

Name, Situation, Soil, Air, &c.

THE ancient name of the pariſh was Lennel, and the ruins of Lennel church, diſtant from Coldſtream about a mile and a half nearly, ſtill remain. Eaſtward from this church there was formerly a little town or village called Lennel, which was ſo entirely deſtroyed in the Border wars, that the ſite of it is not known to me. Coldſtream was the ſeat of a priory or abbacy which belonged to the Ciſtertian order, and was ſituated near the Tweed, where a ſmall water, called Leet, falls into it. Of this ancient ſtructure a vault only remains. It is probable that a village was formed near it, which, from the pleaſantneſs of the ſituation, and the protection afforded by the abbacy to the inhabitants, increaſed to the ſize of a ſmall town. Before General Monk marched into England to reſtore the Royal Family, he made Coldſtream his head quarters, and raiſed that body of men, which, being in ſucceſſion recruited, has been called ever ſince the Coldſtream Regiment of Guards.—

Coldſtream

Coldſtream is ſituated in the county of Berwick, preſbytery of Chirnſide, and Synod of Merſe and Tiviotdale. Placing the foot of a compaſs at Lennel church, taking 4 miles for a radius, and the river Tweed as a diameter, a ſemicircle deſcribed on the north of that river will give a general idea of the extent and form of the pariſh. The length from E. to W. is from 7 to 8 miles; the breadth 4 miles at an average. Coldſtream is bounded by Ladykirk on the E. by Simprin (now united to Swinton) on the N. by Eccles on the W. The river Tweed is the ſouthern boundary. The general appearance of the country is flat. The riſing grounds in the pariſh do not deſerve the name of hills.—The ſoil for the moſt part is rich and fertile; near the Tweed light; inclined to clay backwards. A broad ſlip of barren land runs through the pariſh from E. to W. called the Moorland.—The air is in general dry and healthy. Coldſtream is ſituated at a conſiderable, and nearly equal diſtance from the Chiviot and Lammermoor hills. When the weather is ſhowery, eſpecially if the wind be weſterly, the clouds (from the weſt) take the direction of one or other of theſe hills, pour down their contents upon them, and leave this pariſh untouched. There is much more rain at Dunſe and Wooller than here. According as the ſummer is wet or dry, Coldſtream is benefited or hurt by the locality of its ſituation. Agues prevail in ſome ſeaſons, but not regularly. Headaches, toothaches, and nervous complaints in general, are more frequent here than in other places with which I have been acquainted. Perhaps the eaſterly fogs and rains, together with the frequent blowing of the wind from that quarter, may be the cauſes of theſe complaints. In the village, the children of the poorer inhabitants are liable to the ſcrophula.

Tweed.—Tweed produces bull-trouts, whittings, gilſes, ſalmon, and all other kinds of fiſh common to the rivers in the ſouth of Scotland. Bull-trouts make their appearance in Tweed during the ſpring months, and ſoon after go away. When they come in numbers, they are thought to prognoſticate a plenteous ſeaſon for gilſes and ſalmon.—The intercourſe carried on between Berwick and London, by means of the Berwick ſmacks, and the recent diſcovery of carrying freſh fiſh to a diſtant market, preſerved in ice, render the price of gilſes and ſalmon as dear at Coldſtream as in the metropolis. Tweed is open to fiſhing from the 10th of January to the 10th of October. In the rivers to the north, which abound in ſuch fiſh, the *cloſe* ſeaſon, as it is called, which comprehends the reſt of the months, varies, and is earlier, I believe, for the moſt part in proportion to the latitude of theſe rivers northwards in Scotland, to the Tay, Don, and Dee. The fiſheries in the Tweed are of ſmall value here, but not ſo near Berwick. The gentlemen concerned in them have of late been at great pains to protect and extend them. They reckon nothing more beneficial than the taking care that the protection afforded to the fiſh, be obſerved, during the cloſe ſeaſon, with the utmoſt ſtrictneſs. Meetings have been held by the gentlemen of Merſe and Tiviotdale, lately, to deliberate concerning the practicability and expediency of rendering Tweed navigable, or of cutting a canal through thoſe two counties to the ſea.

Minerals, &c.—Beſides good freeſtone, pebbles, ſeemingly of a good quality, are found among the ſtones and ſand on the banks of Tweed, as well as in the fields nigh that river. Whether there is coal, is not yet certain. Some trials have been made without ſucceſs. A company near Newcaſtle,

Newcaſtle, employed in that buſineſs, engaged lately to make the experiment on a great ſcale, and for that end entered into terms with Lord Binning. The writs were extended, an agent from his Lordſhip came to Coldſtream to finiſh and ſettle the affair; but theſe colliers of the ſouth broke their faith with him, and diſappointed our hopes.—Shell-marl was found in one marſh, and there is plenty of rock-marl in many parts.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's return, about 40 years ago, the numbers were 1493. From the roll of examinable perſons in 1785 and 1786, the numbers were 2017. In the country part of the pariſh, were 292 males, 387 females, 176 children. In the town and a few houſes adjacent to it, the numbers were 1162. Number of families in the town, 305; in the country, 189. I muſt remark, however, that the examination-roll is by no means a ſtandard by which the number of the inhabitants of a pariſh is to be eſtimated. This roll is uſually made up by the officer of the ſeſſion, called the kirk-officer, who is ſeldom a perſon in whom any truſt in a matter of this inveſtigation can be repoſed. The age at which children are to be inrolled is not aſcertained. Parents, according as they have been anxious to forward, or have been negligent in their education, are deſirous to have the names of their children early inſerted in or withheld from this parochial record. Still, however, it gives a general proſpectus of the population of a pariſh. I muſt add, that the ſeſſion-officer in this pariſh is one of the few to be depended upon for accuracy.

Annual

Annual births,	from 1740 to 1749 incluſive,	38.6
	from 1750 to 1759, -	47.4
	from 1760 to 1769, -	53.1
	from 1770 to 1779, -	51.2
	from 1780 to 1789, -	43.8
	Average,	46.82

Annual deaths,	from 1740 to 1749, -	18.7
	from 1750 to 1759, -	19.3
	from 1760 to 1769, -	16.1
	from 1770 to 1779, -	22.1
	from 1780 to 1789, -	28.5
	Average,	20.94

Previous to the year 1786, the number of burials could only be aſcertained from the regiſter of mortcloth money interſperſed among the records of the kirk-ſeſſion. The poor who were buried at the public expence were not taken notice of except occaſionally, ſo that there muſt be ſome ſmall degree of inaccuracy in the above average account of burials. In the town of Coldſtream there are about 34 day-labourers, 20 carters, ſeveral of whom farm 3 or 4 acres of land, 17 weavers, 11 ſhoemakers, 15 wrights, 9 maſons, 6 bakers, 4 butchers, 4 ſmiths, 5 gardeners, 3 ſadlers, 5 tailors, 11 merchants, 13 innkeepers and ale-ſellers, 1 phyſician and 2 ſurgeons. There is a Seceder Meeting-houſe in Coldſtream.

Agriculture, &c.—The pariſh produces the ordinary vegetables, plants and trees, to be found on the ſouth eaſtern border of Scotland. At Kersfield, which belongs to Mr Moriſon of Moriſon, the trees are of a large ſize. At Hirſel, the ſeat of the Earl of Home, a few trees near the houſe excepted,

cepted, the plantations along the ſmall water Leet are not as yet of age. There are no natural woods, foreſts, waſte or common grounds. Near Tweed on this ſide, and ſtill more remarkably on the oppoſite bank, as far as the Chiviot, and the ranges of hills contiguous to it, the want of trees atteſts the border deſolations. Plants in far greater variety are to be found in the lower parts of Clydeſdale and Renfrewſhire than in this pariſh and its neighbourhood. This part of the Merſe and downwards along Tweed, is not a rich field for a botanical journey. Huſbandry is well underſtood in the Merſe. By the Merſe I do not mean the ſhire of Berwick. That ſhire conſiſts of three parts: 1. Lauderdale; 2. that range of hills which, under different names, extends weſtward from the head of Leader water, to the ſea below the town of Berwick; and, 3. that track of country which is ſituated between thoſe hills and Tweed. That charming and fertile track is properly the Merſe, Lauderdale excepted. The pariſh ſupplies itſelf in proviſions, and ſends cattle and corn to other markets. We have an early harveſt, and the ſowing of the crops is adjuſted to this. The groſs rent of the pariſh may be about L. 6000 Sterling a-year or more. The rent of fiſhings is L. 93.

Wages and Prices.—A maſon's wages in ſummer are 1 s. 6d.; a day-labourer's 1 s.; a man reaper's 1 s.; a woman reaper's 8 d.; a mower's 1 s. 4 d.; men ſervants wages are from L. 7 to L. 10, yearly; women ſervants are L. 3. The hinds roll, as it is called, or wages of a hind the year, at an average, are 8 bolls oats, 2½ peas and barley, coals led, a cow's graſs, a pig and poultry allowed to be fed at the direction of the maſter. Hinds form the principal claſs of ſervants belonging to the great farmers in this neighbourhood. Good beef, mutton, veal and lamb, ſell at 4 d. the lb; pork

pork at 3d.; butter at 6d; cheese at 5d.; hens from 8d to 10d.; ducks from 6d. to 8d.; geese 2s.; turkeys, 2s. 6d.; salmon and gilses at the Billingsgate price.

Manufactures.—There is no town in the south of Scotland so well situated for manufactures, in my humble opinion, as Coldstream. The country in its neighbourhood, on both banks of the Tweed is rich in corn and cattle. The price of coals is moderate. We are distant from Berwick about 15 miles. The great road between London and Berwick, the road between Berwick and Kelso, and between Dunse and Northumberland, all pass through the town of Coldstream. Goods manufactured here might be thus carried in various directions into England and Scotland, by ways of communication already opened up. Should the projected plan of a canal be executed and carried near this place, the price of coals would be reduced, and all the advantages would be reaped, which arise from an inland navigation. From the excellent nature of the soil, flax might be raised to serve the purpose of a linen manufacture. The good quality of our barley would favour a distillery or a brewery; neither of which we at present have. Our ale, beer, and porter, come from Ednam. But the woollen manufacture is that for which Coldstream is particularly well situated. The breed of sheep is excellent, and is still improving. I am not sure if the wool, by which the trade and manufactures of Leeds have risen to such vast importance, be in general equal to what is produced in the Merse, Tiviotdale and Northumberland. Yetham, Galashiels, Hawick, places far distant from coals, and not enjoying our advantages of communication, are pushing the woollen manufacture with success. Were a proper plan set on foot here for carrying on

that

that manufacture, it is hard to ſay to what extent it might in time arrive.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The church was built in 1716; the manſe in 1782. The ſtipend is L. 80 in money, 2 chalders in meal, and 1 chalder of barley. The glebe is 12 acres of very good land. The patron is Lord Binning. There are 16 heritors, 4 of whom reſide.—The ſalary of the ſchoolmaſter is L. 16 Sterling. Previous to the year 1735, the poor ſeem to have been entirely ſupported by the Sunday collections and the contributions of charitable perſons. It appears, that in that year, the ſeſſion admitted on their roll as conſtant penſioners, 3 perſons at 4 d. and 3 at 2 d. a-week. At that time the affairs of the poor were entirely in the hands of the kirk-ſeſſion, and continued ſo till about 1740. It appears, that in 1737, the firſt demand was made upon the heritors to give a regular aſſiſtance to ſupport the poor. It was not, however, in general, punctually obeyed on their part. In 1741 the ſeſſion requeſted that the Juſtices of the Peace would call for the poor's liſt, and appoint overſeers, &c. conform to an act of ſeſſion 1. of parl 1. of Charles II. This remonſtrance ſeems to have had the deſired effect; for in 1742, it appears, that half the collection was ordered to be given to the overſeers for the poor. The weekly pay of the poor in 1743 was about 10 s. Sterling. From the year 1765, the heritors kept a regular minute-book and a caſh-book; their accounts after this being altogether unconnected with the kirk-ſeſſion records. In May 1765, the number on the poor's roll was 22, in aid of whom 19 s. 1 d. Sterling was the weekly aſſeſſment. The higheſt allowance was one ſhilling. The quarterly aſſeſſment was L. 13 Sterling. In 1770 the quarterly aſſeſſment was L. 18, and in 1774, it amounted to L. 25, beſides L. 4 levied

from the town of Coldſtream. The weekly payment being L. 2 : 6 : 11. The number on the poor's roll 34. In the year of ſcarcity, 1783, meal was ſold at reduced prices to the poor, at the expence of the heritors and tenants, to the amount of L. 112 Sterling. For the inrolled poor the quarterly aſſeſſment was L. 40, 14 s. the weekly pay L. 3, 4 s. The number on the liſt 46. No demand has been made on the ſeſſion ſince 1773. Half of a quarterly aſſeſſment was paid by the ſeſſion in 1780 or 1781. The collection money goes to relieve tradeſmen laid off work by ſickneſs, perſons overlooked or not ſufficiently provided in the poor's liſt, poor whoſe claims upon the pariſh being dubious, are not entered on the liſt of the heritors, genteeler families decayed not on the roll, ſick and diſtreſſed perſons returning to Scotland, a great number of which paſs this way, and the like. Owing to the high aſſeſſment of the pariſh, the collection is ſmall. From 1785 to 1790, the yearly amount of poor's rates has exceeded L. 220, the weekly pay above L. 4. Two evils have ariſen from the rapid increaſe of the poor's rates. The one is, that truſting to theſe rates, the common people do not endeavour to provide any thing for a time of ſickneſs or ſcarcity, or for the approach of old age. The other is, that theſe rates have, in a great meaſure, deprived them of the natural feelings of giving aid to their relations in diſtreſs. The neareſt ties of conſanguinity are diſregarded, and the holieſt affections of humanity are thus extinguiſhed. No perſon almoſt is aſhamed of having his father, mother, brother, or any other relation, on the pauper's liſt.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The only part of the pariſh ſubject to inundations is the Lees haugh, which is ſituated between the houſe of Mr Marjoribanks of Lees and Cornhill, and which is bounded by Tweed on the S. and E. and

and by Leet on the N. The greateſt land-flood remembered by the oldeſt people then alive, happened in May 1783.—A very remarkable thunder-ſtorm happened in this pariſh on the 19th day of July 1785; a very accurate and ſcientific account of which, by Captain Brydone, is to be found in the Philoſophical Tranſactions of London.—There are two obeliſks in the pariſh, which were both erected by Alexander the late Earl of Home. The one ſmall, built on the centre pier of a Chineſe bridge, conſiſting of two arches, over the water Leet. The other larger, which exhibits in miniature the elegant and beautiful proportions of the Obeliſcus Matthei at Rome. This is erected at the foot of a wooded bank nigh the Leet, and was intended by Lord Home as a monument, in memory of his eldeſt ſon Lord Dunglaſs, who died in America of the wounds he received in the battle of Cambden.—There are two ſmall tumuli in the Kersfield eſtate on the top of a ſteep bank of the Tweed. The tradition is, that the bodies of thoſe who fell in one of the border battles are buried in them.—The ſize and ſtature of the people on this ſide of Tweed being the ſame with thoſe on the other bank, the following notanda of the Northumberland militia, which were communicated to me by Mr John Hall, ſurgeon, who officiated in that corps in the laſt war, will illuſtrate the ſubject. The height of the men was from 5 feet 8½ inches to 5 feet 10½ inches; ſome of the grenadier company were 6 feet, 6 feet 1 inch, and 6 feet 2 inches; the loweſt ſize 5 feet 7 inches. They were in general very ſtrong made, particularly the claſs firſt mentioned. It was remarked by judges, that this battalion, though conſiſting of fewer men than other battalions from the ſouthern counties, yet occupied as much ſpace in the line of brigade. The perſon who furniſhed the cloathing,

found

found that a greater quantity of cloth was neceſſary for them, than for thoſe of the ſouthern counties, numbers being equal.—The people are much diſpoſed to induſtry in the line of huſbandry. We have no manufactures. Thoſe who are fond of a military life, have a predilection to the Coldſtream Regiment of Guards.—The number of ale-houſes have the worſt effect upon the people, encouraging almoſt every ſpecies of vice.—The language is diſtinguiſhable from that ſpoken on the other ſide of Tweed, by the ſoft ſound of the letter R. From that river ſouthward, as far I believe as Yorkſhire, the people univerſally annex a guttural ſound to the letter R, which in ſome places goes by the name of the Berwick *burrh*.—The names of one or two places in the pariſh are derived from the Latin, as Darn-*cheſter* and *Lares*-croft, the grounds of which lie contiguous. Bil-cheſter and Row-cheſter, in the neighbouring pariſh of Eccles, are of the ſame derivation. The word "Law" annexed to the name of ſo many places in the pariſh, atteſts, that it had belonged to the kingdom of Northumberland during the Heptarchy; as Hirſel-law, Caſtle-law, Spy-law, Carter-law, &c.

NUMBER LVI.

PARISH OF LOGIE BUCHAN.

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM PATERSON.

Name, Situation, Surface and Soil.

LOGIE is derived from the Gaelic; and is ſaid to ſignify "a low lying place." The pariſh is called *Logie Buchan*, probably to diſtinguiſh it from other pariſhes, called Logie in this county, ſuch as Logie Mar and Logie Durno. It is ſituated in the preſbytery of Ellon, and Synod of Aberdeen. The river Ythan interſects it pretty nearly in the middle. The pariſh extends from the church upon the S. ſide of the river to the S. W. about 4 Engliſh miles, but is not above a mile broad. On the N. ſide of the river, it extends about 3 miles, and in general is from 1¼ to 2 miles in breadth. That part of the pariſh which lies on the N. ſide of the river, is in the diſtrict of Buchan; that on the S. ſide, is in the diſtrict of Formartin. On the N. of the river, it is bounded by the pariſh of Slains on the E.; by Cruden on the N.; and by Ellon on the W. On the S. of the river, it is bounded by Foveran on the S.; Udny on the W.; and Ellon on the N. W.

The

The ſurface is pretty flat, with ſome riſing grounds in it, but none that can properly be called a hill, or which are not arable and improvable. The ſoil in general is fertile, but more barren on the banks of the river, than farther removed from it; and the river Ythan, I believe, is pretty ſingular in this, that its banks, during the whole courſe of it, are barren, rocky, and covered with heath, (a few ſmall haughs excepted), even in a fertile country where heath is very ſcarce. On the N. ſide of the river, the ſoil is in general a rich loam on a clay bottom, or a ſtrong red clay, which, in ſeaſons that are neither too wet nor too dry, yields a rich crop, but it often fails. On the S. ſide of the river, the ſoil for more than a mile to the S. and W. is light and black, on a gravelly or rocky bottom; but as you advance to the weſtward, it becomes a rich loam, and in ſome places a ſtrong unmanageable red clay.

River.—Ythan is the only river in this pariſh; it produces ſalmon, the common burn trout, the ſalmon trout, and the finnack. The firſt is in ſeaſon in ſpring, and the two latter in Auguſt; it produces alſo eels and flounders, which are highly eſteemed. Near the mouth of the river, there is a very fine bed of muſcles and cockles, which ſupplies the neighbouring country, the town of Aberdeen, and alſo the fiſhers of the whole Buchan coſt with bait. The muſcles, about 12 years ago, were ſold at 4 d. the peck on the ſpot; but the preſent tackſman raiſed them to 6 d. and this ſpring to 7 d. which bears very hard upon the fiſhers, who muſt pay at that rate, or L. 1 yearly for each man or boy who goes out to ſea; and they are under the neceſſity of complying with his demands, however unreaſonable, as no ſubſtitute has ever yet been diſcovered,

which

which can anſwer the purpoſe of bait. The muſcles are in ſeaſon from September to April; but as the muſcle bed lies in the pariſh of Foveran, I ſhall add no more upon the ſubject, as it will perhaps be only anticipating what may be ſaid more properly in the account of that pariſh. The ſalmon ſell in the beginning of the ſeaſon at 6 d. the lb. and as the ſeaſon advances, they fall to 4 d. 3 d. and even to $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. if they are plentiful.—The ſhells, which contains pearl, are pretty often found in this river. I have not indeed heard of any pearls having been found in them for theſe 16 or 17 years; but I am informed from good authority, that a few years before that, ſeveral were got by people keeping cattle upon the water ſide, and that ſome of theſe were of conſiderable value. A circumſtance has come to my knowledge within theſe few days, which ſhews, that the pearl fiſhery of this river was conſidered as an object of greater value ſome time ago, than it has been for theſe ſeveral years paſt; namely, that one of the predeceſſors of Mr Buchan of Auchmacoy had obtained a patent for it; and in the liſt of unprinted acts of 1ſt Parliament of Charles I. *anno* 1633, there is an act, "repealing the patent for the pearl fiſhery, granted to Robert Buchan." Ythan is not a large river, but the tide flows for more than 4 miles up, and is navigable to ſmall craft for more than 3, which is a great accommodation to the neighbouring country. About half a mile below this church, the tide flows out into a broad baſon, and covers a piece of land to the extent of 90 acres, called the Sleek of Tartie; part of the ſurface is green, and produces a fine ſhort graſs, which is very fattening both for black cattle and horſes. The ſoil is mixed with ſhells, and the farmers uſe it as a manure with great advantage; they lay it on, and ſpread it on the ground in autumn and

and winter, and plough it down in the ſpring, and by this manure alone, I have ſeen good crops of bear raiſed on poor outfield ground. Perhaps, by raiſing a proper dike along the natural courſe of the river, the tide might be prevented from overflowing this ſpace, and by this means a valuable piece of ground might be gained to the proprietor; the channel of the river might be deepened, and rendered navigable to larger veſſels.

Produce and State of Improvements.—Oats and bear are almoſt the only productions. A few years ago, one of the proprietors built a lint-mill, ſince which time, the inhabitants have begun to cultivate flax; but as they are not ſufficiently acquainted with the proper mode of managing this uſeful crop, it is not yet cultivated to that extent to which it is to be hoped they will ſoon arrive. Improvements in agriculture may be ſaid to be here only in their infancy. From the eaſy acceſs which the farmers have to lime, by means of the Ythan being navigable, it has been uſed as a manure for more than 20 years paſt; but for want of a proper check in the mode of cropping, after uſing this manure, they at firſt rather exhauſted than improved their fields by it. They are, however, beginning to ſee the impropriety of this practice; but they ſtill, for moſt part, take 3 crops of grain after liming, then a green crop, either turnip or peas, and then bear with graſs ſeeds. This mode of cropping, although better than what was formerly adopted in this corner of the country, would perhaps be reprobated by good farmers; but it is to be hoped, that in a few years, our farmers will be brought to crop their fields, in a manner leſs hurtful to the ſoil, and more beneficial to their landlords and themſelves. The ſhortneſs of the leaſes that are commonly

monly granted in this part of the country, muſt be mentioned as one great bar to the improvement of it. There are a few inſtances of pretty long leaſes granted lately; and as moſt of the proprietors profeſs their readineſs to give longer leaſes when good tenants offer, I hope this great obſtacle to improvements in agriculture will be removed. There are few ſheep; and although of late years the high prices of black cattle have induced the farmers to breed more of them than they did formerly, yet grain may be ſaid to be the ſtaple commodity; of which we always raiſe a great deal more than is conſumed in the pariſh. A conſiderable quantity is every year ſent to the Aberdeen market, and exported from the Ythan, when there is any demand from abroad, or from diſtant parts of the kingdom. There are 62 ploughs; that moſt generally in uſe is the old Scots plough: ſeveral people are getting ploughs of a more improved conſtruction. Perſonal ſervices by the tenants to the landlords are entirely aboliſhed here. Subtenants continue to pay ſome ſervices to the principal tackſman; but it is generally 6 days only in the year, for aſſiſting at caſting their peats, and building their fold fences.

Rents and Size of Farms.—The valued rent is L. 3751, 13s. 4d. Scots; the real rent may be about L. 1500 Sterling. The general rent of infield ground is 15s. or 16s. the acre, although ſome of it is ſet at L. 1 and upwards; good outfield ſets for 6s. or 7s. and poor outfield from 2s. 6d. to 5s. The ſize of the farms is various: There are 3 farms which contain upwards of 300 acres; but two of theſe are ſet off by the tenants in ſmaller farms, and they do not occupy above one half of them. The general ſize of the other farms may be about 120 or 100, and ſome from 60 to 80 acres.

Roads and Bridges.—The roads have been made by ſtatute-labour, and are ſtill kept in repair by the ſame means. I will not ſay that the ſtatute-labour is not ſufficient for this purpoſe, but in the remiſs manner in which it is exacted and executed, it is by no means ſufficient for keeping them in proper repair; and it is pretty certain, that much more work might be carried on by commuting it, even at the low rate at which the law fixes it, of 1 s. 6 d. each man for the ſeaſon. I believe an act of Parliament, obliging the country people to pay money in place of working, would be a moſt eſſential ſervice to the country. It is doing the gentlemen, in this corner, no more than juſtice to ſay, that they have of late been very attentive, and at conſiderable expence in building bridges; and there is great reaſon to think, that in a few years, bridges will be erected in every place where there is any neceſſity for them.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's report, 40 or 50 years ago, the numbers were 575. At preſent, (1791), there are exactly 538 ſouls, of whom 284 are males, and 254 females. Upon an average of 10 years, there have been 10 births, and 5 marriages yearly. As there is no regiſter of burials kept, I cannot aſcertain the number; but, from the beſt accounts, I ſuppoſe there are about 7 yearly at an average. The population of this pariſh is much the ſame now, as it has been for theſe many years paſt. Indeed, after the year 1782, the number of inhabitants decreaſed about 40 or 50, owing to ſome farms becoming vacant, after that calamitous period; but theſe are now occupied by new tenants. A Seceding meeting-houſe was built within this pariſh laſt ſummer, but there are only 2 families of profeſſed Seceders in it. There are alſo 2 families of Epiſcopalians.

Stipend,

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The living conſiſts of 5 chalders of victual, half meal, half bear, L. 24, 8 s. Sterling, and a glebe of about 5 acres. The preſent manſe was built in 1775, and the church in 1787. There are 7 heritors, of whom only Mr Buchan of Auchmacoy, the patron, reſides in it.—As this pariſh is divided by the Ythan, in the manner above mentioned, ſcholars could not eaſily paſs the river to a ſchool ſituated on any one ſide of it. Many years ago, therefore, a ſchoolmaſter was placed on each ſide of the water, and the ſalary, which is only 100 merks Scots, and the other perquiſites, were equally divided between them. But from this diviſion of the emoluments, which was intended for the accommodation of the pariſh, both ſides of the water are in fact deprived of the benefit of a ſchoolmaſter; the encouragement being ſo ſmall, that no perſon qualified for teaching, can accept of it.—There is no parochial fund for the ſupport of the poor, except the weekly collections, which amount, upon an average, to about L. 12 Sterling yearly; and even this ſmall ſum is ſufficient for the poor, as I have ſeldom known the number on the roll to exceed 5 or 6.—There is only 1 alehouſe, kept at the lint-mill, for the accommodation of thoſe who bring their lint from a diſtance, to be dreſſed at it.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—Among the advantages of this pariſh, may be mentioned, that the ſoil in general is very improvable. I do not ſuppoſe there are 20 acres in the whole pariſh, that may not be improved to advantage, conſidering the eaſy acceſs that there is to lime, by means of the Ythan, the moſt diſtant parts of the pariſh not having above 4 Engliſh miles of land carriage. The navigation of this river alſo affords eaſy acceſs to coals for fuel, which is a matter of the utmoſt importance to this pariſh, as there is no moſs in it, and the moſſes in the neighbouring

bouring pariſhes, from which they get their peats, are pretty much exhauſted. This readily ſuggeſts, that taking the duty off the coal would be a great means of meliorating the condition of the inhabitants; as, in that caſe, they would not only have fuel at a cheaper rate, but would have it in their power to employ that time in improving their farms, which is at preſent neceſſarily occupied in providing their peats, which in general employs a good part of their ſummer work, both of themſelves and their horſes. Conſidering the eaſy acceſs that there is to coals, I think I need not mention the ſcarcity of moſs as a diſadvantage to this pariſh; becauſe, if theſe circumſtances would induce them to make uſe of coals wholly for fuel, it would, upon the whole, be for their advantage.—It may alſo be added, that giving them longer leaſes, and ſuitable encouragement for incloſing their farms, would be another mean of bettering their condition, by exciting a ſpirit of improvement.

NUMBER LVII.

PARISH OF GLENHOLM,

(COUNTY OF PEEBLES.)

By the Rev. Mr BERNARD HALDAN.

Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.

THIS pariſh ſeems to derive its name from the nature and form of the ſpot; the moſt conſiderable part of it being a glen or ſtrath, through which a ſmall river runs, having ſome flat grounds along the river ſide, which grounds are commonly called holms.—It is ſituated in an inland country, diſtant from Peebles, the county town, about 12 miles S. W.; in the preſbytery of Biggar, and Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It was anciently a curacy, pertaining to the parſonage of Stobo; when preſbytery was eſtabliſhed, it was comprehended in the preſbytery of Peebles, and afterwards was joined to that of Biggar. The poſt road to Dumfries runs through the lower part of this pariſh. On the road here, at the diſtance of 28 miles from Edinburgh, in the opening of a ſtrath, about a mile in breadth, is a ſmall river, called Holm's water, croſſing the road, which comes down between two ridges of hilly ground. The aſcent of the hilly ground on both ſides the water is eaſy and gradual, for a mile above the church; on the ſides

of

of the braes and flats along the water, there is arable ground, which produces very good grain; the higher parts are a mixture of green and heath; but the tops of the hills are generally heath. The ſtrath becomes narrower, and terminates in a high hill, which ſeparates this pariſh from that of Cultar. In the lower end of the pariſh, where the river croſſes the high road, the country opens to the north eaſt on both ſides. This pariſh hath alſo a conſiderable extent from north to ſouth; it begins about ¾ of a mile north from Holm's water, and runs ſouth along the Dumfries road upwards of 4 miles, 3 of which are upon the banks of Tweed. By far the greateſt part is ſheep paſture; the arable ground is generally of a looſe and ſharp ſoil, of a moderate depth, and in the ſpots that are beſt cultivated, the crops are ſtrong and very productive. As this country is high and hilly, the air is damp, impregnated with vapour; miſts frequently hover about the tops of the hills; the clouds are often intercepted in their courſe, by the hills at the head of this ſtrath, and brought down, ſo that we have more frequent rains than in the low country: hence it is often a wet day at the head of this water, when it is dry weather in the lower end of the pariſh; but notwithſtanding dampneſs is the general quality of the air in this place, there have been ſeaſons when it has ſuffered ſeverely through drought. Colds and rheumatiſms ſeem to be the prevailing diſtempers. There is a ſlate quarry, which continued for many years to be wrought, but was ſome time ago given up. There is alſo a limeſtone quarry, which provides the farmers in this neighbourhood with lime for improving their land.

Population.—The numbers, according to Dr Webſter's report, 40 or 50 years ago, were 392. The population appears to have been greater formerly than now, as the grounds

grounds were then parcelled out in ſmaller poſſeſſions; and this is generally the caſe throughout this country, eſpecially with reſpect to the ſheep farms, as the management of a ſheep farm does not require ſuch a conſtant ſuperintendance as renders the reſidence of the poſſeſſor to be neceſſary; hence there are many inſtances of one farmer holding ſeveral farms, and ſome of them at a conſiderable diſtance from the place of his reſidence. One conſequence of this practice is, that in this way, a ſheep farm will let at a higher rate than otherwiſe, as the ſupport of this family is not to depend wholly on the profits of that one farm. At preſent there are 300 ſouls: was the account to be taken in the ſummer ſeaſon, it would amount to ſome more, by the additional number of maid ſervants, hired for the purpoſe of milking ewes, and an addition of herds. Of the above 300, 135 are males, 165 are females, 76 are under the age of 10, 72 are from 10 to 20. The annual average of births is 9. So far as can be collected from obſervation, the annual average of deaths is 3 or 4 at moſt. The annual average of marriages is 2. There are 10 handicraftſmen, 42 male ſervants, 24 female, 3 ſtudents at the Univerſity of Edinburgh, 14 Seceders, 2 perſons who were born in Jamaica, 158 who were born in other pariſhes in Scotland, 44 married men, including widowers, and 18 bachelors, reckoning them from 20 years and upwards. Marriages have produced 4 children at an average: none have been obliged to leave the pariſh for want of employment. There are 55 inhabited houſes.

Agriculture, &c.—The land rent is at leaſt L. 1000. There are about 5000 ſheep, 150 black cattle, 60 horſes, 340 bolls of grain ſown, 50 acres in ſown graſs, 28 acres in turnip, a part of which are allotted for ſheep to paſture on, and part to fatten cattle for the butcher, with 14 acres of potatoes. The pariſh is able to ſupply itſelf with proviſions.

There

There is ſome grain yearly exported, but leſs than formerly, the grounds being more in paſture. About 50 ſcore of ſheep are yearly exported for the butcher. The time of ſowing is in the firſt good weather in March, and the ordinary time of reaping is in September. There was anciently a conſiderable extent of ſheep ground at the head of the pariſh, which was common to moſt of the heritors, but was ſome years ago divided. There are 12 ploughs, generally of the Scotch kind; 36 carts. Beſides the reſiding heritors, who farm moſt of their lands, there are 6 tenants, and 3 or 4 very ſmall ones. There are 2 diſadvantages this place labours under. From its ſituation, the crops are often hurt by the early froſts in autumn. Sometimes the froſt will touch the crop in the month of Auguſt. In that ſeaſon, the hoar froſt will ſometimes hover as a miſt over the low damp grounds, and the crops in thoſe tracks are more or leſs hurt. It has been obſerved, that in a field of potatoes, growing in a declivity, that on the ſame ridge of potatoes, in the lower end, the leaves would be blackened with the froſt, while in the upper end, they have remained in their proper verdure. The loſſes to which the crops are liable through froſts, as well as the advanced price of labour, are inducing ſome to turn their grounds more into paſture. Another diſadvantage, is the great diſtance from coal, which is no leſs than 14 or 15 miles, and the labour of driving home fuel gives a great interruption to the operations of huſbandry.

Stipend, School, Poor.—The value of the living is about L. 70 a-year, including 2 chalders of meal, and 1 chalder of bear. The glebe is about 6 acres, very good in quality; the inconvenience ariſing from the ſmallneſs of the glebe, is in ſome meaſure remedied, by the incumbent's renting a ſmall farm of arable ground.

ground. The patron is the Duke of Queenſberry. There are 8 heritors, of whom 3 reſide.—The ſalary of the ſchoolmaſter is 100 merks Scots, which is the *minimum* appointed by law. Fees for teaching, are 1s. the quarter for reading, and 2s. 6d. for writing and arithmetic. The number of ſcholars has been between 20 and 30. The ſalary and emoluments do not amount to the value of a labouring ſervant's wages and board; and hence the preſent ſchoolmaſter, finding his income quite inſufficient for the ſupport of his family, has had recourſe to ſhopkeeping, and this has created a prejudice againſt the ſchool, and made ſeveral averſe from ſending their children to it, apprehending that the courſe of teaching will be much interrupted by the buſineſs of the ſhop, which has greatly reduced the number of ſcholars, whereby the education of the youth in this place ſuſtains a loſs that is to be regretted.—The number of the poor has been ſometimes 4, ſometimes 3, or 2, at preſent there is only one who is ſupplied regularly once a-week, and other two who receive occaſionally. The annual average of the collections is about L. 6, 10s. It is a loſs to the poor funds here, that the moſt opulent of the heritors do not reſide. And though indeed the law makes a proviſion by aſſeſſments, in the caſe of the collections becoming deficient; yet the reſidenters in the pariſh would reckon it a hardſhip to be equally involved in an aſſeſſment with the non-reſiding heritors, notwithſtanding they contribute by their weekly collections. At the ſame time it muſt be owned, to the honour of both reſiding and non-reſiding heritors, that in winter 1782 and 1783, when there was extraordinary occaſion of attending to the poor, they very generouſly contributed a ſum to purchaſe meal.

Prices, Wages, and Fuel.—The price of proviſions is nearly the ſame with that of Edinburgh market.—The wages of labourers in huſbandry are generally 8 d. a-day

and their meat, and 1 s. without their meat. The wages of a male ſervant are L. 6 a-year. The wages of a female ſervant are L. 1, 5 s. in the winter half year, and L. 2 in the ſummer half year. The reaſon why the ſummer wages do ſo much exceed the winter, is the labour of the ewes milking, which is reckoned a ſevere taſk, which nothing but high wages can induce them to engage in; and part of that wage having been by long uſe paid in wool, the riſe in the price of that commodity has contributed to raiſe their wages.—With reſpect to fuel, about 40 years ago peat was almoſt the only kind of fuel that was uſed in this pariſh, of which there is to be got very good in kind, but at a great diſtance, on the top of ſteep hills, and difficult of acceſs; and hence the principal inhabitants have entirely quitted the uſe of that ſpecies of fuel for many years paſt, and find they can more eaſily provide themſelves with coals, and only ſuch as are thirled to certain mills, (of which there are 2 in the pariſh), do caſt a few on thoſe heights for the purpoſe of drying their grain at the kiln, which they are obliged to furniſh by their thirlage. The cottagers are provided with a kind of peat, of an inferior quality, which are to be found in low damp grounds, near their dwellings, and are ſuch as require a part of coal to be uſed along with them. The coals are brought from a great diſtance; ſome from Douglas, which is reckoned beſt in quality, and is about 14 or 15 miles diſtant; and ſome are brought from Carlop, which is ſomewhat nearer. The price is 1 s. 6 d. a load, the load being 12 ſtone Dutch weight.

Antiquities.—There are in the pariſh remains or veſtiges of 6 old caſtles or towers, which were inhabited by the ancient proprietors of the grounds, and ſeem to have been built

built in a ſtrong manner, for defence againſt the borderers, who made frequent incurſions in thoſe days. There are veſtiges of what appear like camps, in 3 ſeveral places; but there is no tradition concerning them, to ſhow whether they have been encampments in time of actual war, or have belonged to a chain of watching poſts, to convey an alarm from one part of the country to another; for they are in lofty ſituations.—There is a plain by the ſide of Tweed, on which there are ſeveral mounts, apparently artificial; on one of them there was an appearance of ſeveral riſing ſpots of ground. The proprietor had the curioſity to cauſe one of them be digged, and there found the ſkeleton of a man, with bracelets on his arms; the body was incloſed in a ſtone building, with a ſtone cover; and nigh him was an urn. Another was alſo opened in the ſame ſpot, where they found the remains of a body, greatly conſumed.

Poſt-office.—The conveyance of letters to this pariſh, is by the poſt-office at Bield, which is 7 miles diſtance. It is reckoned that this poſt-office is not placed in the moſt favourable ſituation for accommodating the greater part of thoſe in this diſtrict, who have frequent correſpondence by poſt; and that there is a public houſe in this pariſh, on the poſt-road, to which the opening of the bag might be transferred with advantage, viz. Rachane Mill. At Bield there is only one gentleman's family, and the miniſter; whereas there are 9 or 10 in this pariſh and neighbourhood, whom a poſt-office in the above mentioned place would accommodate. If it be not thought proper to remove the poſt-office from Bield, there ſhould be allowed a bag to open at Rachane Mill. The gentlemen in this pariſh, and others in the neighbourhood, lately joined in a petition

petition to the poſt-office for that purpoſe, repreſenting that the having this commodious conveyance, would encourage ſuch an additional number of letters ſent by poſt, as would more than defray the expence that would be incurred; and that, if it ſhould not, they would bind themſelves to pay the extra expence. But their application was refuſed.

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NUMBER LVIII.

PARISH OF FALKLAND,

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. Mr ANDREW BROWN.

Name, Situation, Soil, Surface, &c.

THE ancient name of the pariſh was *Kilgour;* in the Gaelic language, *Cul-gawn* is the 'hill of goats.' Its modern name is evidently taken from that of the town, or burgh, and probably took place in that year in which the church was transferred from Kilgour to Falkland.—It is ſituated in the preſbytery of Cupar, and Synod of Fife. The contiguous pariſhes are, on the W. Strathmiglo, which alſo, by a narrow ſtrip of land ſtretching along the ſouth ſide of the water of Eden, ſeparates it from Auchtermuchty, and bounds it on the N.; on the E. Kettle and Markinch; and on the S. Leſlie and Portmoak. It is of a regular form, and approaches nearly to a ſquare of about 10,000 acres. Its general aſpect is not unpleaſant. On the N. there is a conſiderable plain or flat, called the Park of Falkland, extending about a mile and an half ſquare, from which the ſurface gradually riſes to that hilly ridge which forms the Lomonds. That ridge, which is the ſteepeſt, a little weſt of the town, is ſkirted with furze, above which it preſents

a beautiful verdure at all ſeaſons, and riſes into a conical ſummit, called the eaſtern Lomond. On the eaſtern ſide of this hill the ridge gradually ſlopes, and is partly verdant and partly heathy. On the weſt the deſcent is ſteeper, to the gap or opening which ſeparates it from the weſtern Lomond, and which extends above a mile nearly on a level. Upon the northern front of this intermediate ſpace, the eaſtern part of it, which ſwells beyond the line of the ridge, riſes in 4 tires of hills, reſembling ſo many ſegments of a circle. The loweſt is totally covered with a ſhort heath, interſperſed here and there with abrupt and rugged maſſes of freeſtone rock. It is well named the Black Hill. From its ſummit, as you approach the foot of the ſecond, the ſurface becomes verdant; but the face of the hill, which is called the Stony Fold, is covered with looſe heaps of blue moor-ſtone, very hard, and of the fineſt grit. They are found in various ſhapes and ſizes, from that of the ſmalleſt pinnings, to the moſt ſolid binding maſſes employed in building. The ſides and top of this hill are clothed with a cloſe and beautiful verdure, from which it is named the Green Hill, and is reckoned ſuperior, as a ſheep walk, to all the ſurrounding paſture. Of ſimilar form, but leſs magnitude, are the two remaining hills, by which you riſe to the common ridge which divides the Lomonds. Their graſs, too, is of coarſer quality than that of the Green Hill, but ſtill very fit for paſture. The weſtern part of this intermediate ſpace, and which is divided from the eaſtern by a deep ravine, ſtretches from the circular into the rectulineal appearance; and from the firſt aſcent, which is higher, more abrupt and broken, runs to the ſummit of the ridge, by three different aſcents, bearing ſome reſemblance to terrace walks in a hanging garden. From the ſummit of the hill and ridge, the ſouthern aſpect has little variety, but a gradual and uniform deſcent, till it joins the pariſhes of

Leſlie

Leſlie and Portmoak.—The ſoil, as well as the ſurface, is conſiderably diverſified. Part is of a light brown loam, upon a red bottom, part a light black ſand, with a mixture of moſs, and in the plain or flat of Falkland Park, already mentioned, part of it is barren ſand and gravel, covered with ſhort heath and furze, but a greater part of it deep black moſs, generated from the oak and other timber which grew there, when it was incloſed for a hunting park to royal ſportſmen, ſome of which hath been cultivated at great expence, and the reſt is lying in its natural ſtate. That track of land which extends almoſt the whole length of the pariſh, from weſt to eaſt, between the plain and the foot of the eaſtern Lomond, is generally of deep loam, and needs only proper culture to produce both ſure and luxuriant crops. On the ſouth ſide of the hill and ridge, the ſoil is ſpungy and wet, more fit for paſture than for the plough. About one half of the pariſh may be conſidered as paſture-ground, in which is included the eaſter Lomond, and that part of the weſtern which lies within the pariſh, both of which are a commonty to the contiguous heritors, and the town of Falkland.—The air is of a middle temperature, rather dry than moiſt, particularly about the town of Falkland, and that track which ſtretches along the foot of the hill, both to the eaſt and weſt. For, on the one hand, the Lomonds attract the moiſt vapours floating in the ſurrounding atmoſphere, and either collect them in fogs about their head and ſhoulders, or conduct them along their range in ſhowers. On the other hand, the creeping fogs which ſet in from the eaſt, more frequently in ſpring and autumn, attracted by the water of Eden, interſecting the valley between Falkland and Auchtermuchty, and by the planting and marſhy ground, ſettle there, and leave the air more dry and pure on the riſing ground, or that part of the pariſh which is moſt populous. In general, therefore, the inhabi-

tants

tants are very healthy. Formerly, thoſe who lived on the low grounds are ſaid to have been ſubject to aguiſh complaints, which, no doubt, aroſe from their vicinity to moſs and marſh, and the ſtagnation of water from the overflowing of the Eden, which ſometimes covered a great part of the valley. But of late years, the moſſes and marſhes have been much drained, and in this neighbourhood the Eden confined within its banks, by a new ſtraight cut or channel, and the aguiſh complaints are leſs frequent. From the Lomonds, on all ſides, iſſue ſprings and ſmall ſtreams of the pureſt and moſt wholſome water, ſo that the inhabitants enjoy in great perfection that neceſſary of life, and moſt ſalutary beverage.

The Lomonds are the only hills which deſerve notice, and that not from their natural magnitude, but their relative ſituation and appearance. As being the higheſt ground of the county, they command a very extenſive and variegated proſpect into many neighbouring and diſtant counties, and are ſeen by travellers, in ſome directions, at a very great diſtance. The eaſtern, which is the moſt regular and beautiful, is ſaid to be about 550 yards above the level of the plain already mentioned; and where it is moſt acceſſible, ſeems to have been fortified near the top, with a deep trench, for what purpoſe, there is no record or tradition. Very near the higheſt part of the hill, there is a ſmall cavity, about a foot and an half diameter, which, in rainy weather, collects ſome water, and is called by the common people a ſpring or well, but by ſome travellers a volcanic crater; and the ſtones immediately under the northern ſummit, though common to the whole ridge, and without any appearance of calcination or vitrification, are carried away in triumph, and exhibited as ſpecimens of volcanic lava found in the eaſtern Lomond. The weſtern hill is conſiderably higher, and has on its top a large heap of looſe ſtones, or a cairn, ſuch as is found on many hills

and

and mountains of Scotland. On the eaſtern Lomond is plenty of limeſtone rock, a few feet below, and in ſome places very near the ſurface, and eaſily wrought. There are alſo ſtrata of coal of very good quality, but not yet diſcovered in ſuch quantity as to be thought worth the digging, eſpecially in a country where there is abundance of fine coal, at a reaſonable rate, in the neighbouring pariſhes of Leſlie and Markinch. On the ſouth ſide of the ſame hill, too, was formerly diſcovered a lead-mine of very rich ore; but either through unſkilfulneſs, or neceſſity of circumſtances, given up. It is now opened again, and with hope of ſucceſs. There is alſo in the pariſh, particularly on the Lomond hills, plenty of ſand, and moorſtone of good quality for building, and eaſily got at. Marl and fuller's earth have been diſcovered, but in ſmall quantities.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's reports, the numbers were 1795. In the pariſh at preſent are 2198 ſouls. Of theſe 937 are in the town of Falkland, 120 in Ballinblae, a contiguous village, 193 in Newton, another village, 476 in Freuchie, another village, and 472 in what is properly the country part of the pariſh.

Of theſe 287 Males,	265 Fem.	from 1 to 10 years of age.
235 ——	210 ——	from 10 to 20
374 ——	447 ——	from 20 to 50
139 ——	156 ——	from 50 to 70
33 ——	52 ——	from 70 to 100
1068 ——	1130	

In a ſtate of celibacy, including that of widowhood, are 304, of whom 91 are males, and 213 females, reckoning the ſtate of celibacy from 25 years of age and upwards. The preſent number of the married, and of thoſe in a ſtate of widowhood, who have had children, is 464. Of theſe have

been born 2373 children, ſecond marriages included, which is 5 to each family. The proportion of barren to prolific marriages, is as 1 to 31. Of the Eſtabliſhed Church 1860, Seceders 338.

The annual births, marriages and deaths, for the preceding 7 years, from 1784 to 1790 incluſive, are as follows, *viz.*

	Males.	*Females.*	*Tot. Births.*	*Mar.*	*Deaths.*
In 1784	28	21	49	14	36
1785	26	24	50	18	29
1786	33	22	55	21	33
1787	25	24	49	16	29
1788	32	22	54	12	48
1789	30	26	56	11	32
1790	41	28	69	20	30

The annual average of births for the preceding 7 years, is, of males 30, of females 24, of marriages 16, and of deaths 34. The proportion between the annual births and the whole population, is as 3 to 122; between the annual marriages and the whole population, as 1 to 131, and between the annual deaths and the whole population, as 1 to 61. Theſe calculations and proportions are founded on the pariſh regiſter, and according to it, as near the truth as whole numbers will admit. But the regiſter of annual deaths is not pretended to be nearly accurate, as is evident from the proportion between them and the whole population, which, it is believed, falls conſiderably ſhort of the annual proportion of mankind that die, even in the moſt favourable of the common circumſtances of human life. For many years the pariſh of Falkland has been conſidered as very ſtationary, in reſpect of population, manufacture and agriculture. Of late it has made ſome progreſs, though ſlow and gradual. The increaſe of population in the laſt 7 years

years is 168, and ariſes more from the increaſe in the families, than from that of their number.

Manufacture.—In the pariſh are 337 tradeſmen, of whom 50 are apprentices. Of theſe 231 are weavers, 45 ſhoemakers, 22 tailors, 12 maſons, 16 wrights, including wheel, plough, cart, wrights, and cabinet-makers, of the laſt very few, and 11 blackſmiths, each trade including its proportion of apprentices.—The weaving of coarſe linen is the principal branch of manufacture, and that is principally carried on in the town and villages. Suppoſing the number of looms well employed, and it is the utmoſt that can be ſuppoſed, 200, the quantity of yarn annually manufactured, at 300 ſpindles to each loom, is 60,000. The value of the above yarn, manufactured and brought to market, at 3 s. 9 d. the ſpindle, is L. 11,250 0 0

A complete tradeſman will weave 400 ſpindle in the year, which at 9 d. the ſpindle, the higheſt price given, is - - L. 15 0 0

Deduct for winding 200 ſpindles woof, at 1½ d. the ſpindle, - - 1 5 0

The weaver's wages are - - L. 13 15 0

The markets for their green cloth are Auchtermuchty and Cupar. The other trades do little more than ſupply the demands of the inhabitants. There are alſo cloth-merchants and grocers, fully adequate to the demands of the place.

Agriculture.—Agriculture, from its long rude ſtate, has of late years made ſome progreſs, and the arable part of the pariſh is conſiderably improved, both in beauty and richneſs. Still, however, there is much room for improvement. That greater progreſs has not been made, may be accounted

accounted for from the particular ſtate of the pariſh. The great body of the inhabitants live in the town and villages. Of theſe there are a number of ſmall proprietors, and others who farm from 1 to 2, 3 or 4 acres, for convenience, generally tradeſmen, who depend upon their trade for the ſubſiſtence of their families, and by conſequence have neither leiſure nor ſkill to manage their little farms to the beſt advantage. From this diviſion of the land, about the town and villages, into ſmall portions, it lies unincloſed and naked, and from the want of a more ſkilful ploughing and rotation of crops, though well manured, it has neither that beauty nor richneſs, to which its ſoil and ſituation are both naturally diſpoſed. There are a few farms of from 2 to 3 and 4 ploughs in the pariſh, of which that of Falkland Wood or Park is the moſt extenſive. There are ſome incloſures, and a taſte for them is prevailing; but, in general, the land is very naked. Oats and barley are the prevailing crops. Peas and turnip are raiſed in ſmall proportions. Artificial graſs, as clover and rye-graſs, begins to be cultivated with more attention. Flax too is raiſed, and in ſome years in conſiderable quantities. The whole produce, however, is not ſufficient for the conſumption of the inhabitants. The old valuation of the pariſh, as it ſtands in the ceſs-books, is L. 5824. The preſent bears a proportion to the increaſed value of land. The farms, from the various quality of the ſoil, are very differently rented; but, it is believed, in general moderately, conſidering the late riſe of rents. That of the land immediately about the town is from L. 2 to L. 2, 10 s. the acre. The price of labour and ſervants wages are, as in the country in general, high. The day-labourer has 10 d. in winter, and 1 s. or 1 s. 2 d. in ſummer. Men ſervants have from L. 5 to L. 7, women from L. 2 to L. 3 wages.

Burgh

Burgh of Falkand.—Falkland was erected into a burgh by King James II. in the year 1458. The preamble to the charter of erection ſtates, as reaſons of granting it, the frequent reſidence of the Royal Family at the manor of Falkland, and the damage and inconvenience ſuſtained by the many prelates, peers, barons, nobles, and others of their ſubjects, who came to their country ſeat, for want of innkeepers and victuallers. This charter was renewed by King James VI. in the year 1595. In this charter is mentioned the right of holding a weekly market, and 4 public markets or fairs, yearly. To theſe laſt have been added other 2 markets, 1 in April, called the Lintſeed-market, and 1 in September, called the Harveſt-market. The 4 old markets are the moſt frequented, and very conſiderable numbers of both horſes and black cattle are ſold and bought at them. What is commonly called the ſet of the burgh, is as follows. There are 3 bailies, 15 councillors, of whom 1 is treaſurer, and a clerk. The councillors elect themſelves annually, and generally continue councillors till choſen bailies. The bailies are choſen by a majority of the councillors, and may continue as long as that majority pleaſes. No old bailie is ever choſen a councillor, and can come into council again only as bailie. The revenue of the burgh ariſes from cuſtom at markets, landed property, and a mill, and is, *communibus annis*, from L. 100 to L. 110, excluſive of public burdens: A ſum which, in the hands of patriotiſm and œconomy, might be turned to much public good in ſo ſmall a town. It has not altogether been miſapplied. There is one monument of public ſpirit in the town, a plentiful ſupply of fine water. It was brought into it in the year 1781. The expence amounted to near L. 400. Partiality for the place of his reſidence, and that ſhare of credit which every individual naturally aſſumes to himſelf, from connection with a famed public, would naturally

turally lead a writer to wiſh, that he could add more inſtances of public ſpirit and beneficence, or that, by a courſe of ſtrict and judicious œconomy, the means of doing good were accumulating. In this reſpect, Falkland claims no diſtinguiſhed ſuperiority to ſimilarly circumſtanced burghs, nor is it perhaps juſtly chargeable with greater degeneracy. It only adds to that maſs of conſiderations which calls aloud for borough reformation. Great as the evil is of the want of œconomy, or the miſmanagement of public revenue, it is ſmall, compared to the neglect or miſmanagement of public authority and power. Magiſtracy is highly reſpectable, and will always be reſpected by every man of ſenſe, and friend to the public weal. It is more particularly ſo when it is contemplated, as deſcending from the ſupreme, to every ſubordinate magiſtrate, inveſted with the ſacred majeſty of public law, and circumſcribed by the rules of equal juſtice. But where office is not decently ſupported, it were better not to exiſt. There are not wanting, in our country, many inſtances in which the vigilance, activity, and patriotiſm of magiſtrates do them great honour, and mark them out to public reſpect, as public bleſſings; at the ſame time, it cannot eſcape the obſervation of partiality itſelf, that there is ſometimes little or nothing of its ſpirit to be found in thoſe who are inveſted with the office. There is a natural diſpoſition in mankind, to reſpect and reverence official authority; but when it is degraded by office-bearers, the contempt and irreverence which naturally fall upon them, deſcend to their office, and are productive of the moſt pernicious conſequences to the great body of the people.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The ſtipend is 4 chalders of bear, 2 chalders of meal, and 600 merks. Beſides, there is allowed for communion-elements 100 merks, and in lieu

of

of a manſe and glebe, only a chalder of bear. Mr Sandilands of Nuthill is patron.—There is no houſe nor garden for the ſchoolmaſter, in hiring of which, his legal ſalary of about L. 6, 10s. is nearly exhauſted. The average number of his ſcholars is about 80, of whom the ſmall proportion that read Latin and arithmetic, pay only 2s. 6d. the quarter, and the Engliſh ſcholars 1s. 6d. Theſe, with the perquiſites ariſing from the offices of ſeſſion-clerk and precentor, conſtitute the whole of his emolument, on which he depends for his own and the ſubſiſtence of his family. His emoluments not admitting of an aſſiſtant, both limits the number of his ſcholars, within what the populouſneſs of the pariſh might afford, and render it neceſſary to employ other teachers in different parts of the pariſh. To thoſe who have any regard for the education and right principling of the common people, it muſt appear evident, that no claſs of men are of more importance to ſociety, or more deſerving of patronage than ſchoolmaſters. The legal proviſion made for them, was, at the time, adequate to the object in view, and the happy effects of it ſoon were, and ſtill are, conſpicuous in our country. Education was univerſally diffuſed. The loweſt claſſes of the people were taught to read the ſcriptures, inſtructed in the firſt principles of religion and morality, and thus prepared in ſchools for being further enlightened and improved by the theological and moral lectures of churches. Hence the diſtinguiſhed ſuperiority of the common people of Scotland in knowledge and ſobriety. Pariſh ſchools have hitherto been the great nurſeries for the church, and many other learned profeſſions. There many men of uſefulneſs and eminence in the different departments of ſociety, have received thoſe rudiments of literature which they could not otherwiſe have obtained, but to the great loſs of ſociety and of their country, muſt have continued blinded with the common maſs,

and,

and, like the deſert roſe, waſted, in vain, their uncultivated ſweetneſs. All who value theſe advantages, and wiſh to ſecure them to their country, will ſee the neceſſity of interpoſing, for the greater encouragement of that order of men, on whoſe abilities and fidelity they ſo much depend.—Conſidering the populouſneſs of the pariſh, and the town and villages which are in it, the proportion of poor is as ſmall as in the generality of pariſhes ſimilarly circumſtanced. Of thoſe who receive regular ſupply, the annual average is about 15, and of thoſe who are occaſionally aſſiſted about 22. The funds for this ſupply are, the weekly collections at the church-door, the yearly rent of ſome land, the intereſt of a ſmall ſum of money, perquiſites at marriages, when the bride is of the pariſh, and at burials, for the uſe of the mortcloth or pall. Theſe, at an average of the laſt 7 years, amount annually to about L. 44, of which the annual collection is L. 24.

Inns and Ale-houſes.—The market for every thing generally bears a proportion to the demand. The unfrequency of travellers by the way of Falkland, eſpecially ſince the great north road was made by Kinroſs and Queensferry, has greatly diminiſhed the demand for inns. Still, however, there are 2 houſes in it that go by the name of inns.—Of ale-houſes, for which there is a greater demand from the populouſneſs of the town and neighbourhood, there is a greater number. There are 10 in the town of Falkland, 1 in Newton, and 3 in Freuchie. Theſe generally belong to brewers; and though ſtill more than are favourable to either the health or morals of the inhabitants, are ſaid not to exceed half the number of what have ſometimes been known in the pariſh. This diminution of inns and ale-houſes has ariſen from the increaſed demand for ſpirituous liquors. It were injuſtice to the generally ſober and induſtrious

ſtrious character of the pariſhioners, to ſay, that they are either idle or prodigal; but where there are temptations, ſome will always be tempted.

Antiquities.—Of this pariſh, the moſt memorable antiquity is the ruinous palace of Falkland, which, for many years, was the occaſional reſidence of the Royal Family of Scotland.—On the S. ſide of the Eden, directly between Falkland and Auchtermuchty, are the remains of what is called a Daniſh camp. That it was ſo, is probable from the name of a neighbouring village, Dunſhelt, ſuppoſed to be a corruption of Danes-halt, and to have derived its name from the circumſtance of the Danes having formed an encampment in its vicinity. Another circumſtance adds to the probability of the tradition, that it is of a circular form. The remains of this camp conſiſt of five concentric circular trenches, nearly equidiſtant from one another, and ſeem to have been ſeparated only by the bank of earth thrown up from each. The centrical ſpot incloſed by the firſt trench is about 22 feet diameter, and where they are not demoliſhed, the trenches are at preſent from 10 to 15 feet wide.—On the E. of Nuthill, and nearly half a mile W. from the houſe, are 4 parallel trenches, in the form of inverted wedges, of from 250 to 300 yards in length, evidently the work of art.—And the ſame is to be ſaid of what is called the Maiden Caſtle, on the ſame eſtate, ſituated above half a mile diſtant, on the S. ſide of the green hill already mentioned. It is an oblong circular mound, gradually riſing from a level on the E. to a ſteep and abrupt termination on the W. of nearly 400 yards in circumference, and, except the ſteep part on the W. and the level on the E. where are the remains of a ſtone wall, is ſurrounded with a ditch of 12 feet wide.

NUMBER LIX.

PARISH OF BANCHORY DAVINICK,

(COUNTIES OF ABERDEEN AND KINCARDINE.)

By the Rev. Mr GEORGE MORISON.

Name, Situation, Surface, Air, &c.

BANCHORY, the name of the parish, is said to signify in Gaelic, 'an opening between two hills;' and is descriptive of the situation of the church and manse. It is not agreed as to the meaning of the word Davinick.—This parish is divided into two parts by the river Dee, which being the boundary between the counties of Aberdeen and Kincardine or Mearns, that part which lies on the north side of the river, is in the former county, and that whiah is on the south side, in the latter. Although the church stands in the county of Kincardine, the parish is in the Synod and presbytery of Aberdeen. The boundings and figure of that part of the parish which lies in the county of Kincardine, will be best understood by consulting Garden's map of that county; the other part is a strip about 1 mile in breadth, and about 4 in length, lying along the bank of the river, and stretching both farther E. and farther W. than the parish does upon the opposite bank. On the E. this

this part is bounded by the parish of Old-Machar, or Old Aberdeen, on the N. by Newhills, and on the W. by Peterculter. A line drawn from one extremity of the parish to the other, would, I suppose, measure 7 miles. The general appearance of the country is rugged and stony. The kind of stone which prevails is blue granite, of which several quarries are wrought for the purpose of sending to London, as well as for building at Aberdeen. The hills are covered with heath, and the air by no means unhealthy. There is no distemper, so far as I know, that can be said to be peculiarly prevalent here; and the people might enjoy good health, did they not drink too freely, particularly of ardent spirits. Besides the quantity of gin smuggled in upon the coast, which by the way is not so great as formerly, we have two whisky distillers in the parish, and 10 or 12 public houses. The soil in this parish is not naturally rich; it is in general light, and either mossy or sandy, but when properly managed it is not ungrateful, and produces good grain, particularly on the river side, and on some parts of the sea-coast.

Agriculture, &c.—A spirit for agriculture has begun within these few years to make its appearance in some parts of this parish. Still, however, it is with a few exceptions confined to those farms which lie near the river, particularly on the north side. On that side the soil and exposure are good, and the heritor, Mr Menzies of Pitfodil, has wisely granted leases of 19 years and a life, with an obligation to take off houses and fences to a certain extent, at the expiry of the lease. The change which this has effected on that part of his estate, within these five years, is astonishing. On this side there is not the same encouragement, and less consequently is done. Besides, in all the parish south of the

the river, there is a vaſt quantity of moſs, and being in the vicinity of Aberdeen, the tenants who pay upwards of L. 1 an acre for ſmall bits of land, depend for a livelihood upon driving peats to town, where they find a ready market for them. This is one cauſe why the cultivation of the land is very much neglected. Another bar to agriculture, is the high price of labour. A day labourer, if a good hand, earns 1 s. a day for 9 months of the year, and 9 d. the other 3; and the wages of a capable farm ſervant, who has his victuals found, are ſeldom under L. 6, and ſometimes as high as L. 9 Sterling a-year. And a third cauſe of the uncultivated ſtate of our fields, is the poverty of the people, which renders many of them unable either to ſtock or manage their farms to advantage. I muſt, however, for the honour of ſpirit and exertion, relate one inſtance of the increaſed value of land, which is remarkable. I allude to Mr Fordyce of Ardo, one of thoſe brave men who circumnavigated the globe with Lord Anſon, and ſuffered ſo many hardſhips in the ſervice of their country. This gentleman, after accompliſhing the voyage, returned to Scotland in the year 1744, with the well-earned wages of his toil, and purchaſed the eſtate of Ardo in this pariſh, where he has reſided ever ſince. When he took poſſeſſion of his eſtate, he found the manſion-houſe, ſuch as it was, with the garden, and about 40 acres of land, in the hands of a tenant, who paid about L. 3 : 6 : 8 Sterling annually. Having it in contemplation at that time to go abroad again, he aſked the man if he would renew his leaſe, which was expired, at the annual-rent of L. 5 Sterling, his anſwer was, 'Na, by my 'faith, God has geen me mair wit.' Mr Fordyce ſettled, and employed himſelf in improving the land, which is now in a good ſtate of cultivation, and would rent at L. 1, 5 s. an acre. Little has hitherto been done in the way of planting,

ing, although a great deal of the ground is fit for nothing elſe. Some plantations that were made about 40 years ago, being chiefly of Scotch fir, are not in a very thriving condition.

River, Sea-coaſt, &c.—The river Dee is not navigable here, but produces excellent ſalmon. The different proprietors upon the river let their fiſhings; but as the fiſh are not got in great quantity at this diſtance from the mouth, they fetch but ſmall rents. I ſuppoſe the groſs rent of all the ſalmon-fiſhings in the pariſh, would be found to be ſhort of L. 100 Sterling. The river Dee, from its long courſe, and the mountainous country through which it runs, is ſubject to very ſudden and very high floods. In the year 1768, one of theſe happened in the middle of harveſt, which ſwept the whole crop of the haughs, and alſo a great many ſheep from the inches, or ſmall iſlands, which are frequent in the midſt of the river. We had another ſwell of the river, not much inferior to the former, in November laſt, the water roſe 9½ or 10 feet above its uſual level. This ſwell was occaſioned by a ſtorm of wind and rain from the S. E. and it is remarked here, that rain from the E. always fills the river more than from any other quarter. Luckily when this flood happened, the harveſt was nearly over. The ravages which it made in overthrowing bulwarks and fences, tearing up the cultivated land in ſome places, and covering it with ſand and ſtones in others, were truly aſtoniſhing.—The ſea-coaſt, which extends 3 or 3½ miles from N. to S. is throughout high and rocky. No part of it affords a ſafe harbour for any veſſel larger than a fiſhing boat. Of theſe we have a good many. At Findon, (which gives name to haddocks when ſplit, and dried in a particular way by the ſmoke of peat, and which are known

known and eſteemed in moſt parts of Scotland,) there are 2 fiſhing boats, each of which requires 6 hands, and 3 ſmaller ones of yauls, wrought by four men each. At Portlethen, about a mile farther S. there are 3 of the larger boats, and 1 yaul, manned as thoſe of Findon, and at Dounies, ſtill farther to the ſouthward, there is 1 yaul employed. The fiſhermen at Findon, have each an acre of land, a houſe, garden, liberty of fuel, and a right to the harbour, for L. 3 Sterling annually. Thoſe at Portlethen have not a full acre of ground, and on that account pay 5 s. leſs of rent. They fiſh pretty ſucceſsfully for ſkate, ling, turbot, cod, haddocks, whitings, flounders, crabs, lobſters, &c. The vicinity of Aberdeen ſecures a good price. Haddocks this ſeaſon, which has been a bad one for fiſhing, have ſold from 2 s. to 6 s. the dozen, according to their ſize. —Whilſt ſpeaking of the coaſt, a remarkable incident may be mentioned, of which this pariſh was the ſcene. On the 19th Auguſt 1710, 7 boys, about 15 years of age each, ſailed out of the harbour of St Andrew's in a little boat, and loſing one of their oars, were driven into the ocean. After 6 days and 6 nights of continued faſting and labour, they got to ſhore alive, 4 miles ſouth of Aberdeen, and 50 north of St Andrew's. A humane country man, John Shepherd, kindly received them into his houſe, and ſent information of ſo moving an accident to the magiſtrates of Aberdeen, who diſpatched their dean of guild, a phyſician, and a ſurgeon, to attend them. All of the boys were preſerved in life, except the two youngeſt, who died ſoon after they came aſhore. John Shepherd was preſented with a ſilver cup in form of a boat, by Robert Bruce goldſmith in Edinburgh, father of one of the boys, in teſtimony of his gratitude for the active part he took in recovering his ſon.

Population.

Population.—At the time of Dr Webſter's report, the numbers were 1495. The population at preſent amounts to about 1700. Of theſe 1700, no more than 744 are males, which leaves 956 females. I ſuppoſe this diſproportion will be found to be greateſt in country pariſhes in the vicinity of large towns.

Stipend, Poor, &c.—The ſtipend at preſent, amounts to no more than L. 54 : 2 : $3\frac{1}{12}$ Sterling, 42 bolls 1 peck of meal, and 24 bolls 1 peck of bear; in which is included communion element money, and L. 16 Scots allowed for graſs carried off by the river. The glebe is very little above the legal *minimum*. There are 10 heritors, 3 of whom reſide.— The number of poor who are ſupplied quarterly, are from 20 to 30, beſides a good many who receive occaſional aid. Our funds conſiſt of L. 5 Sterling, appropriated by a ſpecial deed for that purpoſe, out of the rents of the eſtate of Banchory, L. 3 : 6 : 8 out of thoſe of Ardo, a piece of ground which yields L. 6 of free rent, and the intereſt of L. 25 of ſtocked money; beſides our weekly collections, ſo much for the uſe of the pariſh mort-cloth, and ſo much for the uſe of the burying-ground, exacted from every perſon who uſes it, and who does not reſide in the pariſh, and ſuch fines or penalties as are levied from fornicators, &c. From all theſe ſources together, we have an annual income of L. 45 Sterling at an average. I cannot help here expreſſing a wiſh, in which I am by no means ſingular, that fornicators and other ſcandalous perſons were entirely turned over to the ſecular arm. Our diſcipline has no effect to check the evil, and expoſes us to witneſs very diſagreeable ſcenes of equivocation, falſehood, and perjury.

Miſcellaneous

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—We have in general good materials for making roads, but the ſtatute-labour, which is partly commuted, and partly paid in kind, is not ſufficient for keeping them in repair. I am perſuaded we never ſhall have good roads till turnpikes are eſtabliſhed. Many of the country gentlemen are, I believe, ſenſible of this; but the meaſure would be ſtrongly oppoſed by the town of Aberdeen, which would be ſeverely affected by it, and which has an intereſt in the pariſh.—There are ſeveral very large cairns, both on the north ſide of the river, and towards the coaſt, and in one place in particular, a number of ſmaller ones are ſcattered over the moor near them. There is alſo in the ſouth ſide of the pariſh, a Druidical temple that is worthy of notice. It is ſituated on an eminence about a mile and a half from the coaſt, and was till within theſe few years remarkably perfect. It conſiſted of three circles of ſtones within each other. The outer circle, which was about 45 feet in diameter, conſiſted of 12 large ſtones placed on end. The inner circles were compoſed of ſmaller ſtones, placed in the ſame manner, and between the two outermoſt upon the eaſt ſide, there was a ſtone cheſt ſunk in the earth, about 3 feet long, and 1½ wide, which having been accidentally uncovered by a country man, he found an urn, which diſcloſed nothing but a little duſt or aſhes. A little farther down the hill, towards the S. E. there is another erection of the ſame kind. It conſiſts of 1 circle of pretty large ſtones.

NUM-

NUMBER LX.

PARISH OF DURISDEER,

(COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN M'KILL.

Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.

THIS parish is situated in the county and Synod of Dumfries, and in the presbytery of Penpont. It is almost surrounded with hills, except a pleasant opening to the S. and S. W. It has also three small openings, one W. in which is the road up the river Nith to Sanquhar, Air, &c. One N. in which is the road up Enterkin for Leadhills, Edinburgh, &c. One N. E. betwixt 2 hills, being a strait pass, known by the name of the Wall-path, leading to Edinburgh, &c. by Crawford Muir, and having in it the remains of an old earthen or mud-wall fort, called *Deers-Castle*, and which had formerly commanded the pass there, a little above the church and village of Durisdeer. The most of the parish has a fine exposure to the sun along the range of hills. The river Nith divides it. Its extent along the Nith, is about 5 computed miles: From the top of the Lowthers near Leadhills to Druidmilk, about 2 miles W. from Drumlanrig, it is fully 8. On the S. it is

bounded by the pariſh of Morton; on the S. W. by Penpont; on the W. N. W. and N. by Sanquhar; and on the N. E. and E. by Crawford. Its general appearance within the range of hills is flat; but on the banks of the Nith there is a good deal of ſteep ground. The Nith is fordable only in two or three places. There is a ſtone-bridge of three arches over it, near the foot of the pariſh. Carron, a fine clear rivulet, riſing at the foot of the Lowthers, runs ſeveral miles down the E. ſide of the pariſh, then divides it from Morton, falls into Nith at Carron foot, and hath many acres of arable land, with a gentle declivity on its banks.—The ſoil, in general, is deep and fertile; in many places inclining to a reddiſh colour, and this colour increaſes in proportion to the height of the hills. The moſt remarkable mountains in the pariſh are the Lowthers, from the top of which, in a clear day, there is a moſt extenſive and variegated proſpect. The hills are partly covered with heath, partly with verdure, and a ſtrong kind of graſs called *Bent*. They are paſtured with fine flocks of ſheep of the ſhort kind, as that ſpecies has hitherto been conſidered the moſt proper for the ſituation.—Freeſtone of various kinds is found. In ſeveral places there is the appearance of coal; and it is thought that ſome of the hills contain lead, as the mines of Leadhills and Wanlockhead are on the other ſide of the Lowthers.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's returns, the numbers were 1019. It is highly probable that this pariſh was more populous about the beginning of this century than at preſent. One or 2 tenants now poſſeſs places formerly occupied by ſeveral families. The pariſh now contains 1031 ſouls. There are only 2 villages; 1 containing about 100 perſons, and another about 50.

The

The annual average of births for 19 years past is - $22\frac{2}{19}$
——————— of deaths, - - - 17
——————— of marriages, - - $8\frac{2}{19}$

During these last 19 years, 430 have been baptized, 323 have died, and 155 couples have been married. One person died lately at 95. And in 1773, died *Bessy Jamieson*, whose own account of her age was, that she remembered the *Merk Monday* being then a little girl. This remarkable Monday is said to have been in the year 1652. The number of farmers, excluding those who have small subsets, is 43. All the inhabitants are natives of Scotland, except 2 families from Ireland. There are 27 Seceders, and 7 of those who call themselves of the Reformed Presbytery. There has been only 1 instance of suicide since the year 1771, and the person who was guilty of it was evidently lunatic.

Agriculture, &c.—The produce of this parish is such, as is common in the southern parts of Scotland. Oak is the most plentiful species of trees, and sheep the most plentiful species of animals. Some farms bordering on the hills have upwards of 80 score. The breed of sheep might be improved here, by introducing the long instead of the short kind. They are already on the farm of Holestain, and it is thought that they may thrive on the high grounds of this parish. They carry a much greater quantity of wool than the short kind. Butter is reckoned preferable to oil for mixing with the tar used in smearing. This is the opinion of the English manufacturers, who have got the Holestain wool these few years past. The sheep of a bluish colour are supposed to have the worst kind of wool. The wool at Holestain farm was sold, within these few years, at 3s. and 3s. 6d. the stone. In summer 1790, after the sheep were washed

waſhed, it ſold at 8s. the ſtone. The number of ſheep is about 10,500. Several diſtricts are remarkable for producing mutton and beef of the beſt quality. There are 188 horſes, the moſt of which are employed in agriculture, which has been making rapid improvement of late years. Within theſe few years, many acres have been employed in raiſing potatoes and barley; a few in turnip, wheat, and rye-graſs; but by far the greateſt number is ſown with oats. The pariſh for ſeveral years paſt, not only has ſupplied its inhabitants with proviſions, but exported many hundred ſtones of oat-meal and barley to the mining Company's ſtores at Wanlockhead and Leadhills, and ſome to Sanquhar and the Weſt country. Many ſcores of lambs are ſent annually to the fairs at Langholm, Lockerby, Lanark, &c. and ſome lambs and fat ſheep to Edinburgh: alſo a great number of black cattle of various ages and ſizes to England. When the ſeaſon is favourable, ſeed-time begins here about the middle of March, and bear or bigg, (a kind of grain with four rows on each head,) is ſown from the beginning to the 20th of May. In a good ſeaſon, harveſt ſometimes begins on the 20th of Auguſt. In 1782 and 1783, plenty of meal was to be got here for money. The higheſt price was 2s. 6d. the ſtone. The quantity and quality of the ground in this pariſh, will appear from the following ſtatement.

	Acres.	*Roods.*	*Poles.*
Arable and Infield -	1374	1	14
Outfield - - -	1776	3	8
Meadow - -	271	2	30
Paſture - - -	10712	2	20
Woods - - -	365	2	2
Moſs - -	15	0	15
Houſes and Yards -	13	0	18
Total	14529	0	27

The

The rental is about L. 1754 Sterling, exclusive of the *grassums*, that is, sums paid at the granting of new leases. Almost the whole parish belongs to the Duke of Queensberry.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The stipend is L. 700 Scots, 3 chalders of victual, ½ meal, the other bear, L. 40 Scots for communion-elements, and 21 acres of a glebe. The Duke of Queensberry is patron. The manse was built in 1763. The church was repaired in 1785.—There is one school with a salary of L. 100 Scots, but no school-house nor dwelling-house. There is another school for teaching English, writing, and arithmetic, to which Mr Thomas Tod, once minister of this parish, mortified 1000 merks Scots; the interest of this sum, and of L. 14 Sterling that had been saved during vacancies, make the whole of the salary. The kirk-session elect the teacher, according to Mr Tod's deed of settlement. There are several other teachers employed in different places of the parish. There may be 35 scholars at an average throughout the year at the parish school.—On the poor's roll there are generally between 25 and 30 persons. Besides occasional assistance is given to families in distress. Few of the poor beg except within the bounds of the parish. The poor are provided for by the Sunday collections, by the interest of 1000 merks Scots, mortified by the late Mr Tod, and by L. 11 : 1 : 5 Sterling, mortified by General Douglas, long paid on that footing; but the bond being amissing, it has, for some time past, been paid as an allowance, from the Duke of Queensberry, together with 25 stone of meal yearly. Besides, there is L. 106, 12 s. at 4 *per cent.* interest. So that the funds for the support of the poor amount to about L. 40 a-year, exclusive of occasional legacies.

Prices

Prices and Wages.—The common field lambs, ſold formerly at L. 2, 10 s. the ſcore, and ſometimes lower, are now ſold from L. 3, 10 s. to L. 5. Fat ones are riſen from 4 s. 6 d. and 5 s. to 7 s. 8 s. or 9 s. each. Hens from 4 d. to 8 d. Butter from 5 d. to 6 d. the lb. Cheeſe made of cow-milk from 3 s. 4 d. to 4 s. 6 d. and 5 s. the ſtone; ewe-milk cheeſe from 5 s. to 7 s. the ſtone. Laſt ſpring, barley was 3 s. the Nithſdale peck, beſt oats 2 s. 6 d. bear 2 s. 6 d. But in the month of Auguſt, oat-meal that had been 19 d. and 20 d. in the ſpring, roſe to 2 s. 3 d. the ſtone, and corn and other grain in proportion. Labourer's wages have lately been raiſed from 6 d. to 9 d. and 10 d. a-day; and the Nithſdale maſon from 10 d. and 1 s. to 14 d. and 16 d. The wages of ſervants employed in huſbandry are lately advanced from about 2 guineas a-year to L. 2, 15 s. or L. 3, and ſometimes more.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The air, in general, is dry and healthy. In ſummer, there is ſometimes a conſiderable quantity of ſalmon caught, and ſold for 2 d. and ſometimes for 3 d. the lb. The inhabitants, in general, are hoſpitable, honeſt, ſober, and induſtrious. They are of the middle ſize. A great number of the lower claſſes are employed in ſpinning yarn of coarſe wool for carpets, which is moſtly ſold for ready money, and carried to Kilmarnock, and of late to Kendal. The coarſe wool has been riſing for ſome years paſt from 3 s. to 6 s. the ſtone, and the fine in proportion. The price of cattle and horſes, as well as ſheep, is greatly raiſed.—Some of the inhabitants have inliſted in the army. When the late Duke of Queenſberry raiſed a regiment for the Holland ſervice, a conſiderable number inliſted here, and in the neighbourhood. Several of the natives have gone abroad likewiſe in the mercantile line, and ſome of

of them have been very successful in the West Indies. The people, in general, live comfortably. Some of the principal farmers and storemasters are in affluent circumstances, and live in a genteel manner.—The rent of cot-houses is from 10s. to 20s. a-year. Farmers, tradesmen, labourers, and servants, are much better lodged than 20 or 30 years ago. The removal of the burden of hay and corn labour, coal carriage, the payment of fowls and other servitudes, would meliorate the condition of some of the farmers. A moderate advance of yearly rent, instead of high grassums, (which take away the money that would enable the farmers to improve their ground), would have the same effect. Were the tax on horses taken off, it would tend to meliorate, in some degree, the condition of the clergy. They must consider themselves aggrieved in being subjected to pay a tax for horses only employed in labouring their glebes, and in carrying them to discharge the offices of their profession. They plead an exemption, because the law allows them a horse in landward parishes; because glebes, by act of parliament, before the Union, were free from taxation, and because every privilege belonging to the Church of Scotland before the Union, was expressly stipulated to be continued.—There are 9 houses, where whisky, porter, and ale are sold by licence. The morals of the people will, probably, be hurt by drinking more spirituous liquors since the malt-duty was raised so high; and little malt is made in this country in comparison of what was made formerly.—The state of the roads is but indifferent. The statute-labour is commuted. A road from the village of Durisdeer would connect the Wallpath road with the new turnpike to Sanquhar and the west country, and would be of very great service to all the inhabitants of Carron water for the article of coals. A bridge over Nith, even though it were constructed of timber, would be of material advantage; and

and it might be eaſily erected, below Auchenbreath, where the river is confined on each ſide by ſolid rock. There are 3 mills, and ſeveral old ruins of towers, forts and chapels.—In September 1786, great devaſtation was made among the trees at Drumlanrig by an uncommonly high wind.—On the Morton ſide of Carron there are the Enoch Lins, a romantic natural cave.

NUM.

NUMBER LXI.

PARISH OF TORPHICHEN,

(COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES PATON.

Name, Situation, Surface, Minerals, &c.

TORPHICHEN is ſaid to ſignify 'ten hills;' a range of hills having ſo many particular tops being immediately in the vicinity of the village of Torphichen. The pariſh is ſituated in the preſbytery of Linlithgow, and Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, about 17 miles W. of Edinburgh, in latitude 55° 55′, about 9 miles in length from E. to W. and its average breadth about 2½. It is bounded on the S. partly by the pariſh of Bathgate, and partly by Shotts; on the W. partly by Shotts and New Monkland; on the N. by Slamannan and Muiravenſide; and on the E. by Linlithgow. The pariſh is hilly in general, but particularly ſo at the E. end, where the hill called Cairn Naple is ſituated, the height of which above the level of the ſea is 1498¾ feet. The pariſh may be reduced into two diſtricts; the E. end, extending about 4 miles, is in moſt parts very fertile, except the hilly parts. The weſt end is what is commonly called moor-land. The air, in general, is moiſter than farther eaſt the county, but

does not appear to be unhealthy, nor is there any distemper that may be called endemic. There is one spring strongly impregnated with iron, and may therefore be useful as a Tonic; it is about a mile west from the village of Torphichen, and is said to have been much frequented about 40 or 50 years ago. There is a loch about a mile to the N. E. of the village of Torphichen, about a mile, or rather more, in circumference, which affords pike, perch and eel. There is a considerable quantity of freestone, and very durable for building, and plenty of what is commonly called whinstone, both made use of for building houses and fences. Coal is very plenty; a coal-mine has been wrought on the wester declivity of Cairn Napple for a considerable time, but is only made use of by the proprietor for burning his lime, which is in the neighbouring parish of Linlithgow; about 2 miles farther west, on the farm of Killicanty, a coal-mine was wrought for a very long period, till within about 20 years past, and might still be wrought if there was encouragement. In this farm, too, there is iron-stone, 2 seams of it having appeared on cutting into a hill for the purpose of levelling a road; they are about 18 inches asunder, and each about 5 inches thick, and of a good quality.

Population.—At the time of Dr Webster's report, the numbers were 1295. Excepting that the village of Torphichen is considerably increased, it is probable, that the rest of the parish was more populous even a century ago than it is at present. The present amount is 1069. Deaths, births and marriages, since 1763 stand thus:

Years.

Years.	*Deaths.*	*Births.*	*Marriages.*
1763	13	27	7
1770	14	32	15
1780	8	16	11
1790	18	28	12

There are 6 ſmiths, 9 tailors, 15 weavers, 26 maſons and wrights, 1 ſurgeon, 156 Seceders. Very few reach the age of 80; one man, aged upwards of 80, a farmer, and capable of going about buſineſs, has been 4 times married, and has had 26 children; there is another man of middle age, or rather more, has had 15 children by one woman, who is ſtill alive, and had a child within a few months ago, and the whole 15 children are alive.

Agriculture, &c.—Land rents at from 7 s. to 30 s. the acre. There are 62 or 63 ploughgates of land in the pariſh, each ploughgate not leſs than 70 acres. Some farmers have one or two ploughgates; two or three about three; and one five. The roads in the pariſh are upheld by each ploughgate of land being aſſeſſed in 12 days work of a ſingle horſe cart, and a man, or ſix days work of a double horſe cart, with a man. The above work may likewiſe, in the option of the truſtees or overſeers, be converted into money, at the ordinary rate of labour, which commutation is at preſent ſtated at 12 s. Sterling the ploughgate; a ſum by no means adequate to the work.—There is a diſtillery in the village of Torphichen, where about 2000 bolls of barley are yearly diſtilled, and upon the grain are fed about 40 head of cattle, that will weigh at an average 40 ſtone each. Few ſheep are kept; the grounds are moſtly grazed with black cattle. The pariſh produces wheat, barley, oats, peas; the former in the eaſter half of the pariſh only, and of late the quantity ſown yearly is increaſing; the culture of peas is rather declining.

climing. There is a very considerable quantity of planting, consisting of oak, ash, elm, birch, beech and fir, the latter in very large quantities; of the other there are some very fine trees, both for beauty and value. There is a poplar, the dimensions of which were taken about the year 1788, when it was somewhat more than 80 feet high, and its circumference within two feet of the ground, 5 feet 11 inches. Planting is yearly going on, both for shelter and beauty. The most part of the parish is inclosed, and the farmers are so sensible of the advantages resulting therefrom, that a piece of unincloſed land is not easy to be let. There are about 30 bolls of wheat sown yearly, 80 of barley, about 80 acres of artificial grasses, and turnip is beginning to be attended to. Each family in general plants as many potatoes as may serve for its own use. The same may be said of flax. It is supposed that about two thirds of the parish are arable, and that the parish supplies itself with provisions, and about a third more. Seed-time, in general, for oats, is from the 1st of March to the middle of April, and from the 1st to the middle of May for barley. Harvest from 1st September to the middle of October. The parish has abundance of fuel and water, for the encouragement of the manufacturer, with the additional encouragement of the Cleugh turnpike road. There are 3 oat and barley mills, and 2 lint-mills.

Stipend, Poor, &c.—The living is, great teind, L. 413:3:4 Scots, small tiend L. 137:0:6 Scots, 20 bolls 2 firlots $3\frac{1}{4}$ pecks meal, 11 bolls $3\frac{3}{4}$ pecks bear. The vicarage tiend, 7 stone 2 lb. butter. Lord Torphichen is patron. The manse was built in 1765. There are 36 landholders.—The poor are relieved by the interest of L. 200, mortcloth-

mortcloth-dues, &c. and the weekly collections. At an average there are 10 penſioners.

Wages.—A man ſervant employed in huſbandry, living in the family, receives as wages L. 7 a-year. A woman ſervant, living in the family, L. 3: A man ſervant that lives in a cottage receives the foreſaid wages, and 2 pecks of meal, and 6d. a-week, which is reckoned much the ſame expence as living in the houſe. A day-labourer's wages are 1s. without victuals, and 6d. with victuals.

Antiquities, &c.—A little to the N. E. of the village of Torphichen, is the hoſpital or preceptory of Torphichen, the principal reſidence of the Knights of St John of Jeruſalem. There is only the choir of the church remaining, all the reſt of the houſes being razed, except a ſquare tower; there are two wings, one on the S. and the other on the N. ſide, and evident marks of other two on the E. and W.; on the inſide are three beautiful Gothic arched domes, the middle one ſupported by ſome Gothic columns; the windows are large and Gothic; in the S. wing is a nitch for laying the dead during funeral ſervice, and likewiſe the font for baptiſm. It was founded by King David I. There have been ſeveral preceptors of Torphichen who have been conſiderable men, the firſt mentioned is one Archibaldus magiſter de Torphichen, who is witneſs to a charter of Alexander, Great Steward of Scotland in 1252. Sir Henry Livingſton was likewiſe preceptor, who, dying in 1463, was ſucceeded by Sir William Knows, who, in the ſame year, was made Lord High Treaſurer. He died at the unfortunate battle of Flouden in 1513, and was ſucceeded by Sir George Dundas, who was a perſon of great learning, and a ſchool-fellow of

Hector

Hector Boethius at Paris. The laſt preceptor was Sir James Sandilands, ſecond ſon to Sir James Sandilands of Calder. Sandilands, at the Reformation, reſigned all the lands of the Johanites in Scotland into Queen Mary's hands, who feued them out again to him for 10,000 crowns, and the yearly annuity of 500 merks. She alſo erected all the foreſaid lands into a temporal lordſhip, in favour of him and his heirs, in 1563. The Templars croſs was ordered to be put upon all houſes that were feued out by theſe Knights, and to this day is ſeen a great number of croſſes upon the top of ſeveral buildings in Edinburgh, Leith, Linlithgow, Stirling, &c. which formerly belonged to them. This preceptory was a place of refuge. There is a ſtone in the church-yard as a centre, and others at a mile diſtance, E. W. S. and N. with a St John's croſs on them: They ſtand about 2 feet out of the ground.—About a mile to the E. of Torphichen, is an altar of 4 great unpoliſhed whin ſtones, on which, according to tradition, ſacrifices were anciently performed: By others, it has been called the temple of Terminus, although it may rather have been a druidical place of worſhip.—About a mile to the N. W. of this altar, is the hill Boudane, upon which there are evident marks of a military ſtation: The form of the camp is oblong and round; it is marked in Armſtrong's map of the 3 Lothians as a Daniſh camp; the tradition of the country is, that it is Roman.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The people of this pariſh are induſtrious, the moſt of the labouring men wiſh to take a fee in winter, but in ſummer to remain free, when they employ themſelves in mowing hay, driving cattle to England, and reaping in harveſt. This is complained of by the

the farmers. Servant women are difficult to be had too in ſummer, as they make nearly as much in harveſt as their half year's wages would be, and can do very well the reſt of the time by ſpinning flax; indeed there are many women who do very well the year round, by ſpinning flax, with their harveſt wages. A married man, with common prudence, is at no difficulty to maintain and bring up his children, if he keeps his health, along with the induſtry of the mother. The commonalty live on the produce of the country, or what is called milk and meal, with a large proportion of potatoes in winter. The dreſs is greatly more expenſive than it was 30 or 40 years ago.

NUM-

NUMBER LXII.

PARISH of LOGGIE EASTER,

(COUNTIES OF ROSS AND CROMARTY.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN ROSS.

Name, Situation, Soil, River, &c.

THE parish of Loggie Easter is so called, because there was another of the same name some time ago in the western division of Ross. The name *Loggie*, (in the Gaelic *Lagie*) signifies "a hollow." The church formerly stood in a beautiful hollow, surrounded by braes or hillocks. It is nearly 7 miles in length, and in some places more than 2 in breadth; bounded on the S. by the parish of Kilmuire, on the E. by Nigg; on the N. E. by Fearn; on the N. by Tain; and on the W. by Eddertown and Kilmuire. This parish lies partly in the county of Ross, and partly in the county of Cromarty, within 4 miles of the town of Tain, which is the presbytery-seat, and sometimes the seat of the Synod of Ross. The diseases to which the inhabitants are most subject, are the cough, asthma and rheumatism. Sometimes fevers get in among them. The small-pox raged here twice lately, and carried off a considerable number of children. Some of the inhabitants, from a religious prejudice, were not reconciled to the practice of inoculation;

lation; whilſt others were prudent enough to take the benefit of this ſucceſsful mean to ſave their children. There have been, and are ſtill ſeveral inſtances of longevity here.—The ſoil, in ſome places, is a ſtrong deep clay, in others a rich black mould, and in others a light earth on an open bottom. There is a conſiderable part of the pariſh not in culture, which is capable of being turned to good account. There was, however, ſomething done of late in this way. The proprietors give ſome encouragement towards it, by building houſes on waſte ground, and giving their poſſeſſors the benefit of what ground they can break up for ſeven years, before they pay any rent. Some likewiſe give each of them, a ſpade, mattock and ſeed for once to ſow what ground they yearly bring into culture. There is a good deal of plantations in a thriving condition. The only natural wood is on the ground of Ulladale. The only river in this pariſh goes generally by the name of Abhor, or "river." It has 2 bridges upon it. There are 3 burns or rivulets, one of which, with heavy rains, overflows its banks, and ſometimes, particularly in ſeed-time, conſiderably damages the fields on each ſide of it, waſhing away the looſe earth and ſeed within its reach, and ſpoiling the graſs. We have ſome of the fineſt ſprings in different parts of the pariſh. One of them near the old church was once ſuperſtitiouſly thought to foretel the future recovery or death of any ſick perſon, for whom they fetched ſome of its water, by changing its colour if he was to die, and continuing the ſame if he was to recover.

Population.—At the time of Dr Webſter's report, the numbers were 850. The population has been greatly on the increaſe for 10 years back. The laſt incumbent had no more than 600 examinable perſons on his liſt; whereas, by

an exact list taken by the present incumbent 2 years ago, there were 900 persons in the parish, from 8 years old and upward. In the summer of 1782, whole families came down from the Highlands, on account of the dearth, and settled here for the benefit of daily labour, and having the fuel so near them. The encouragement given for turning waste ground into culture, has likewise increased the population. The monopoly of farms, or turning some small ones into a large one, takes place here. Gentlemen proprietors have very considerable farms under their own management; and the farmers wish to have each as much land as he can. This, however, does not affect the population. There are 258 houses possessed; 2 residing heritors, a gentleman captain on half pay, the minister, schoolmaster and kirk-officer, 49 farmers, 33 out-servants, 32 cottagers, 15 weavers, 11 shoemakers, 2 masons, a brick-maker, a cartwright, a plough-wright, 3 smiths, 3 coopers, 3 millers, 3 pedlars, 2 turners, 3 public-house keepers, 8 tailors, 2 house carpenters, 2 gardeners. The remaining 78 houses are possessed by day-labourers, poor widows and maidens who set up by themselves, sometimes only 1, generally 2 of them in a house. All are of the Established Church, except a few Seceders. The number of births for 10 years back, reckoning at an average, is 32 yearly; of marriages 8.

Agriculture.—The valued rent is L. 1514 Scots. The real rent may be about L. 1100 Sterling. Some of the proprietors have converted customs and services into money, and there are no services at present from the tenants to their masters, except that some tenants, by their leases, are obliged yearly to cut some peats for them, and carry these home, and to give them 3 days assistance in harvest. The cottagers who reside near their masters house, are obliged to

attend

attend and aſſiſt in carrying their corn-ſtacks from the barn-yard into the barn. The ſervitudes which diſgraced human nature, by rendering tenants almoſt ſlaves, are, in this pariſh, done away; and I hope the day is faſt approaching, when proprietors will find it proper to have their rents paid in victual and money only. The greateſt farmers pay about L. 60 Sterling yearly rent in victual and money, and ſome of them not L. 5 Sterling. The principal crops are oats, barley, and potatoes, which laſt are the ſupport of many poor families, with ſome little meal, for more than half of the year. There grows alſo a conſiderable quantity of peas, and rye. The proprietors, and even farmers, now ſow clover and rye-graſs, and find this the moſt profitable way of reſting their lands, after which they get rich crops. Of every kind of grain, a far greater quantity grows than ſerves the inhabitants. A conſiderable quantity of barley is uſed in malting, for ale, and to ſerve the diſtilleries around us in other pariſhes, there being none licenſed here. Oats, barley, and oat-meal are ſold here to perſons at a diſtance, and ſometimes ſent out of the country.—There are about 600 horſes, nearly twice the number of oxen, and a conſiderable quantity of milk cows. The horſes are generally ſmall, but even the farmers have begun the cuſtom of ſupplying themſelves with thoſe of a large ſize from Moray; and this betters the breed of horſes here. The number of ſheep is not ſo conſiderable now as formerly, the gentlemen in this pariſh rather cultivating milk cows, and the tenants not having the ſame range for their ſheep, by the improvement of waſte ground.

Church, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—About 24 years ago, the preſent neat little church was built on an eminence, at ſome diſtance from the hollow where it formerly ſtood.

Twelve

Twelve years ago, during the vacancy Sir John Roſs of Balnagown, with conſent and approbation of heritors and preſbytery, took the manſe and glebe to himſelf, and built a neat manſe for the preſent incumbent. The former glebe meaſured 9 acres of very good land, in lieu of which, by the arbitration of proper judges, he gave 26 acres of arable and waſte ground, around the hill on which the manſe was built. On this hill, there is a moſt charming proſpect to the ſouth of the town and bay of Cromarty, and to the eaſt, of the pariſhes of Nigg and Fearn, and a part of the pariſh of Tarbat. From the month of May, to that of October, ſuch a ſcene of corn fields, over ſo very conſiderable a ſpace of ground, ſtrikes the delighted beholder. The ſtipend is 5 chalders of barley, L. 22 : 15 : 6 Sterling, and a right to the ſmall tithes in kind. Kenneth Mackenzie, Eſq; is patron.—The ſalary of the pariſh ſchoolmaſter is only 100 merks. By this ſalary and ſchool-dues, which are far from being extraordinary, with his ſalary and perquiſites as ſeſſion-clerk, and ſome laudable ſhifts, this man decently ſupports himſelf and family. There is a ſchool in the heights of the pariſh of Kilmuire, the ſalary of which yearly is paid by the Society for Propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, which lies very contiguous to the heights of this pariſh, and at which ſeveral children from it are taught.—The number of perſons on the poor's roll is generally between 60 and 70. The greateſt part of them can do ſomething towards their own ſupport; ſuch of them as are able, go about once a year and collect ſomething in this way. They receive alms frequently from the inhabitants at their own houſes, and the money collected at church, (except a little given in the way of ſalary to the ſeſſion-clerk, catechiſt, and kirk-officer), goes all to their uſe. They have alſo the fines raiſed from ſuch as commit fornication. There are

likewiſe

likewiſe eſtabliſhed funds from ſeveral mortifications, for the behoof of this and of ſome neighbouring pariſhes, from which this pariſh has a fund of L. 24 Sterling. Beſides, there is a fund of L. 18 Sterling belonging to the ſeſſion, the intereſt of which is yearly given to the poor. Collections at church for 10 years back are, at an average, L. 14 Sterling yearly.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The common people generally ſpeak the Gaelic language; many of them underſtand ſomething of the Engliſh, and ſpeak it through the Gaelic accent and idiom.—The inhabitants are in general of a pious, ſober, and induſtrious diſpoſition, well acquainted with the principles of religion, and regular in their practice. This does not ſay that there are no exceptions. There has not been one of them tried for theft or murder ſince the preſent incumbent came among them. Two inſtances of ſuicide have indeed occurred during that time.—The neceſſaries of life are eaſily acquired here; its conveniencies and ſuperfluities fall to the ſhare of a very few perſons. This pariſh abounds in the extremities of it, and in ſome parts through its very middle, with moſs and turf ground; ſome of the neighbouring pariſhes cut their peats and turf in it, and carry them to their own homes. To cut, dry, and carry theſe home, is the labour of many during the greateſt part of the ſummer, and the firſt month of harveſt. Peats, turf, and bruſhwood, are in general the fuel here. Gentlemen indeed buy and uſe coals.—The out ſervants have a houſe from their maſter, 6 bolls of meal for their meat, and 3 for their wages in the year; with 2 pairs of ſhoes, and the uſe of as much land to plant potatoes, and ſow barley on, as they can provide manure for. The produce of potatoes is all their own. They give half ſeed for the barley

ley land, and receive half of the increaſe. All theſe things, with ſome perquiſites they expect and get, will be worth about L. 12 Sterling a-year. So that an out ſervant, with his wife, (if ſhe be ſober and induſtrious), and 5 or perhaps 6 children, can live eaſily, though frugally, and may be juſtly more void of care than his maſter. The hire of a day-labourer here is from 6d. to 8d. a-day; but they generally deal in what they call ſlump work, or work by the piece. The women, beſides out labour, deal much in ſpinning hemp, flax and lint, of which they can make each 3d. a-day; and ſome maidens chooſe rather to keep houſe by themſelves, (as a hut can eaſily be built, and fuel procured), and live in this way rather than go to ſervice. They reap in harveſt, for which they have each a boll and 2 pecks, for about 6 weeks labour, and ſpin throughout the reſt of the year. The hire of a man for the harveſt work is a boll and a half, with one diet a-day.—There is a ridge of ſmall hills in the middle of the pariſh, of no great height. On the top of one of theſe once ſtood a gallows, which part was ſurrounded by a ditch, as may be ſtill ſeen. Not far from it, near the very end of the ridge, is a pond of water, narrow in circumference, but very deep, and not eaſily fathomed. This pond goes by the name of *Pôll a bhaidh*, or the 'Pool 'for drowning.' About 40 years ago, died a man, who witneſſed the laſt execution in this pool, that of a woman for child-murder. Hence it appears, that when heritable juriſdiction took place, this was one of thoſe places in this county appointed for the execution of condemned criminals.—On each ſide of the burn or rivulet, called Aultran, Albanick, or Scotſburn, are ſeveral cairns. The tradition reſpecting them is, that there was a battle fought in this place by the Scots and Danes, which the Scots gained; that this water received its name from that circumſtance;

and

and that under theſe heaps of ſtones they buried their ſlain. A part of one of theſe heaps was removed, the ground under it dug up, and human bones and an axe were found there. In ſeveral places are tumuli, ſome of which clearly appear to be the works of art. There are likewiſe ſmall incloſures of turf artificially made, ſome of them ſquare, and ſome circular. Two always appear near each other; they are called in the Gaelic, *Reitagan*. *Reite* or *Reitachas*, in that language, ſignifies 'agreement;' and the tradition reſpecting them is, that in former times, parties at variance met there with their friends for ſettling of differences.

NUM-

NUMBER LXIII.

PARISH OF ERROL,

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By Mr WILLIAM HERDMAN, *Aſſiſtant to the Miniſter of Errol.*

Name, Situation, Soil and Climate.

THE name of Errol ſeems to be of great antiquity. The firſt mention made of it is about the year 980, when the country was freed from an invaſion of the Danes. One Hay and his two ſons, who were ploughing in the field, ſtopped their countrymen in their flight, cauſed them return to the charge, and, by a furious onſet, ſubdue and rout their enemies. For this ſignal ſervice, the family was ennobled under the title of Earl of Errol, and obtained a portion of land in the Carſe of Gowrie, where Errol is ſituated. It continued in the poſſeſſion of their deſcendants till the middle of the laſt century, and has ſince belonged to ſeveral proprietors. No account is given of the origin of the name. The pariſh lies within the Synod and preſbytery of Perth. It is bounded by the river Tay on the S.; by the pariſh of Inchture on the E.; by Kinnaird, Kilſpindie, and Kinfawns, on the N.; and by St

St Madois on the W. It is 5½ miles in length, and nearly 3 in breadth; perfectly regular and compact, and includes a large and a fair portion of the carſe of Gowrie. From the one end to the other, it ſtretches over almoſt the whole breadth of the carſe, from its commencement at the foot of the hills, to its termination by the Tay; and though it is in general level ground, there are ſeveral eminences in it, which add much to the beauty of the figure. The ſoil is of excellent quality. It varies according to the ſituation. The low land, which may comprehend two-thirds of the pariſh, is in general a ſtrong clay; the riſing ground, and particularly that in the neighbourhood of the village of Errol, is a rich black earth; and towards the W. end of the pariſh, the ſoil is of a lighter nature, inclining to a brown ſand. The whole country is naturally wet, and it is the draining and improving of it within theſe laſt 50 years, which has contributed ſo much to its value and fertility. The climate, of courſe, could not be conſidered as the moſt deſirable. It was damp, and attended with ſuch diſeaſes as are common in a heavy atmoſphere. Some time ago, the ague was a very prevalent complaint; it has now in a great meaſure diſappeared; but a diſeaſe ſtill more fatal ſeems to have come in its ſtead. Conſumptions, which formerly were rare, have of late been very frequent, although, from the ſtate of cultivation, it ſhould be thought that the air is much more ſalubrious. But what is remarkable in the carſe of Gowrie, the people who reſide in the higher parts of the country are not found to be the moſt healthy. The inhabitants of the low and marſhy grounds, indeed, may be more liable to rheumatic complaints, but they have been often obſerved to enjoy the longeſt courſe of life.

Agriculture.—The mode of cultivation has undergone an entire revolution within theſe 40 years, and, as this pariſh is an important part of the carſe of Gowrie, that article is the more deſerving of notice. The land was formerly divided into what was called infield and outfield, there being about two-thirds of the former, and a third of the latter. The infield, which generally lay next the village or tenement, got the dung produced on the farm, and was kept under a conſtant rotation of peas, wheat, barley and oats; lime, fallow and artificial graſſes, were almoſt unknown. The outfield, after remaining 6 years in its natural ſtate, was for 3 crops turned into oats, having been previouſly thrown up into dikes as a preparation for them; after which it was allowed to revert to its former condition. The produce of every kind was very indifferent. In thoſe days of ſterility, the horſes were ſupported in ſummer upon thiſtles, which were to be had in abundance, both in the laboured and uncultivated grounds, and which it was the employment of the ſervants to collect. The land is at preſent in a high ſtate of improvement. As almoſt the whole pariſh is capable of bearing the ſame grain, the farmers, like impartial ſtewards, direct their attention equally to every part of their charge, and divide their poſſeſſions into 6 equal portions, which they employ for fallow, wheat, peas, barley, graſs and oats. The fallow which ſucceeds the oats or wheat, is turned over in the end of autumn, again in the beginning of ſummer, and commonly ploughed and harrowed other 3 times in the courſe of it. It is always enriched with dung, and frequently with lime, which are laid on it before it gets the laſt furrow in Auguſt.—The wheat upon the fallow is ſown from the 8th to the laſt of September. As this is the principal crop which recompences the toil and expenſe

penſe of the farmer, it is perpetually encroaching on the grounds belonging to the other kinds of grain. Some tenants who are only bringing their lands into order, or who, it is feared, are bound down by their leaſes, adhere ſtrictly to the ſixths into which they have divided them, and convert no more into wheat than they had under fallow; others, whoſe poſſeſſions have been longer in a ſtate of improvement, borrow conſiderably from the barley and oats, turning fields of peas and of graſs into wheat as they judge beſt; while ſome very good farmers plough up the whole of what was graſs, and lay the third of their grounds under wheat. But this extenſive cropping is liable to be interrupted, and is ſometimes entirely prevented, except on the fallow, by the heavy rains which fall in autumn.

The ſeed-time is finiſhed in general by the middle of October, and the harveſt commences about the 24th of Auguſt. According to the ſoil, ſtrong beans, grey peas and beans, or early peas are raiſed; the grain is ſown as early in March as the ſeaſon will permit, the oats immediately after; and the harveſt takes place in September. The land for barley, that it may be fully pulverized, is thoroughly ploughed at 3 different periods, November, April and May, and the crop is ready for reaping at the ſame time with the oats. Drilled beans, potatoes and turnip, are ſometimes put in place of peas, and found to be an excellent preparation for the barley.—If the quantity reaped from each kind of grain in the pariſh ſhould not ſeem remarkable, the quality yields an abundant compenſation. The return obtained in general from wheat may be 10 bolls the acre on the fallow, and 8 after graſs. The average produce of peas and beans is 8 bolls, which, at the price they uſually bring, is a poor crop; but the benefit derived to the land, and the maintenance they furniſh

furniſh for the horſes, are the reaſons for continuing them. Oats may be eſtimated at 11 bolls, and often ſeveral more; but as they do not commonly exceed 14 s. in value, wheat is found to be more profitable, and ſeldom fails to be ſubſtituted in their room, when the exchange can ſafely be admitted. Barley is a precarious crop on ſtrong clay ground, and cannot be reckoned upon for more than 8 bolls, though 10 and upwards are frequently obtained. But the produce of all the above articles is ſubject to much viciſſitude, though the return mentioned is the higheſt that can in general be expected. No part of the kingdom perhaps excels this for crops of graſs. They are raiſed after barley or oats, and even ſometimes after wheat; and though the increaſe depends a good deal upon the ſeaſon, 3 luxuriant cuttings are frequently had between the beginning of June and the end of September. A conſiderable quantity of fruit is likewiſe produced in this diſtrict. Formerly there were large orchards planted at many of the farm tenements, ſome of them conſiſting of ſeveral acres; and though they are in ſome meaſure become barren through age, and the quality is by no means fine, they annually bring money into the pariſh.

The rearing of live ſtock, though generally practiſed, is not carried to great extent. The ſoil is ill adapted for paſture, and too valuable to be left for that purpoſe. There are juſt as many animals maintained, as conſume the fodder produced on the farm. The cattle are kept in ſtraw-yards with open ſhades, where they thrive very well, and are ſold when 3 years old, from L. 4 to L. 6 or L. 8 each. The milk-cows, and work horſes only, have liberty to feed on a part of the ſown graſs for a little time in ſummer, and the other ſtock are ſent to graze in the neighbourhood, or ſold, excepting as many as can be ſupported in

in the yard upon clover. Till of late, the breeding of horſes was rather neglected, and large ſums were laid out in purchaſing them; but the farmers are now become more attentive to their intereſt in that reſpect, and there is a proſpect that they will henceforth provide for themſelves. But the carſe tenants who can go much length in bringing up young beaſts of whatever kind, are thoſe who have graſs poſſeſſions ſomewhere elſe, to which they can remove them at the proper ſeaſon. The pariſh may contain 7000 acres. The whole of it is arable, and at preſent under cultivation in the manner already mentioned, excepting ſome incloſures of firs, which, though the trees are ſcarcely come to half their ſize, the proprietors are faſt clearing off. From the different methods purſued by the farmers for the productions of grain, it cannot be exactly determined what quantity of land is employed in each ſpecies; but it is conjectured that there is a fifth of the whole pariſh in wheat, nearly a ſixth in graſs, and as much in peas, ſomething more in fallow, potatoes, flax, and plantations, leſs than a ſixth in oats, and about the ſame in barley.—Land is rented at very different prices. Fifteen years ago, it was about 15 s. the acre. It roſe immediately after to L. 1, 5 s. and was then judged ſo high, that the tenant obtained his poſſeſſion for life. It has of late been letting for L. 2, and ſome of it even for L. 2, 10 s.; but rents of this laſt kind are given chiefly for lands about the village, where trades people pay rather for the convenience than value of ground. The valued rent of the pariſh is nearly L. 17,000 Scots, and the real rental is ſaid to be about L. 8000 Sterling. The extent of farms is variable, but in general from 100 to 200 acres. The tillage is performed by a plough, with an iron head and mettle mould board, drawn by 2 horſes, which one perſon manages.

For

For every 30 acres in the farm, one ſuch plough is commonly judged neceſſary. As the labour is ſevere, ſtrong horſes are employed, which, for the moſt part, coſt more than L. 21 a-piece. Four or 5 cows are kept on a poſſeſſion of 100 acres.

Wages, Prices, &c.—An ordinary ploughman gets from L. 7, 7 s. to L. 9, 9 s. a-year; if married, he pays L. 1 for his houſe and garden, and L. 1, 10 s. for the maintenance of a cow throughout the year. There are many of both deſcriptions in the pariſh; and though the cottager is not ſo likely to change his reſidence, the unmarried perſon is as much deſired for a ſervant. The wages of a female ſervant are from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 3, and the whole of her employment is in the houſe, except in ſeed-time and harveſt. Moſt of the male ſervants have their lodging apart from the dwelling of the farmer; and for victuals, which they prepare themſelves, receive 2 pecks of oat-meal a-week, and a certain meaſure of milk for each diet. When labourers are hired by the day, they have 10 d. in winter, and 1 s. in ſummer, for meat and wages. Perſons from the neighbouring boroughs are engaged for cutting down the crop; the men get from L. 1, 3 s. to L. 1, 5 s. and the women from 15 s. to L. 1, beſides proviſions, which they generally earn in 3 weeks. A conſiderable expenſe, beſides, was annually incurred for a number of hands for threſhing out the grain, which ſervice is chiefly done now by machines for the purpoſe. Threſhing-mills were introduced into the pariſh about 3 years ago, are multiplying every ſeaſon, and conſidered a capital improvement in huſbandry. —The whole coſts attending cultivation, excluſive of rent, and alſo of lime, which is frequently demanded, are ſaid to be L. 2 an acre. The price of proviſions is much the

ſame

ſame as in the neighbouring pariſhes.—This pariſh produces much grain, beſides what is neceſſary for its own conſumption. A good deal is ſent every year to Perth and Dundee, and large quantities are exported by ſea. It is carried coaſtwiſe to Leith, and ſeveral other ports on the Forth, and up the canal to Glaſgow. Winter and ſpring are the ſeaſons of exportation, the farmer being then obliged to diſpoſe of his grain. The prices are regulated by the Edinburgh and Glaſgow markets, being commonly ſomewhat lower, though the grain is of the beſt quality, and the meaſures uſed here exceed thoſe at Leith, by at leaſt 5 *per cent.* which will defray the charge of tranſportation. There are two places at which all the grain exported from the pariſh is ſhipped off; the ſhore of Errol, a little below the village, and of Powgavie, on the E. point of the pariſh, where it joins with Inchture. The chief traffic carried on, is that of grain in winter, and lime and coals in ſummer. Lime is brought from different parts of Fife, and ſold for 17 d. the boll, wheat meaſure, and alſo from the north of England, of a ſuperior quality, which is to be had for 2 s. 4 d. barley meaſure. Coal, which is the fuel uſed in the pariſh, coſts about 3 s. 9 d. the boll, weighing 52 ſtones. There may be 140 or 150 chaldrons of coals delivered at the ſhore of Errol in a ſeaſon, and 120 of lime. The quantity of grain exported may be nearly the ſame with that of the lime delivered. A correſpondence is likewiſe kept up with London, and ſome other places, whence porter, wine, ſugar and wood, are frequently received. The proprietor of Errol has a duty upon the articles ſhipped off, or landed at the harbour on his eſtate. A paſſage-boat goes regularly between it and the ſhore of Newburgh every tide.

Population.

Population.—At the time of Dr Webſter's report, the numbers were 2229. At preſent (1791) the numbers are 2685; of theſe 1857 live in the country, and 828 in the village. There are 1301 males, and 1384 females. Computing from 21 years, the time of majority, there may be 472 unmarried, 846 married, and 164 widowers or widows. Of all deſcriptions, there are

Under 10 years of age, - -	633
Between 10 and 20, - -	536
Between 20 and 50, - -	1117
Between 50 and 70, - -	362
Above 70, - - - -	37

The annual average of births for the laſt 6 years is 77; of marriages 32, and of burials 40. There are 18 heritors belonging to the pariſh; but the moſt of it is in the hands of 6 or 7 proprietors, few of whom reſide. Almoſt the whole country is occupied by the farmers. They are expert and induſtrious in their profeſſion, and proſperous in their circumſtances. Little of the ſervile work on their poſſeſſions is performed by them or their families; and beſide female, many of them conſtantly maintain 8 male ſervants. There are 211 weavers, who for the moſt part work cloth for ſale; but no fine manufacture is carried on. There are 50 wrights, 25 tailors, 21 ſhoemakers, 14 blackſmiths, 5 maſons, 2 brickmakers, 1 bricklayer, 4 bakers, 3 butchers, 2 ſurgeons, and 1 writer. There are 7 innkeepers in the village, and 10 in other parts of the pariſh. There are not above 240 Seceders of all denominations. The remaining 2445 belong to the Eſtabliſhed Church, who, for numbers and genteel appearance, will not be excelled or equalled by many country congregations in the kingdom.—Their ſtature is conſiderably above the ordinary ſize, and their proportions otherwiſe well adjuſted. In temper

temper and manners, they are gay, cheerful and active. The higher ranks are opulent, and the lower have it in their power, from the great wages they can earn, to purchaſe the conveniencies of life. They are far removed from ſordidneſs, and are not unſuſceptible of generoſity, of which they have given proof on ſeveral occaſions. As the people equal their neighbours in uſeful, and far ſurpaſs them in elegant accompliſhments, it is expected that they will be exemplary alſo in that devout and religious demeanour, which gives every embelliſhment its true luſtre and dignity.

Church, School, Poor.—The church was built in 1765. The manſe above 60 years ago; has had ſome inconſiderable repairs ſince that time, and is ſtill in a tolerable condition. John Allen, Eſq; of Errol is patron.—There is only one eſtabliſhed ſchool, though, from the inconvenience of ſending children to a diſtance, others are maintained in different quarters. The pariſh ſchoolmaſter has 200 merks Scots of ſalary, 1 s. 4 d. on every marriage, 8 d. on every baptiſm, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. on every certificate. He has beſides a ſmall fee for doing the buſineſs of the kirk-ſeſſion. The office is judged to be worth L. 50 Sterling a-year.—The poor on the roll at preſent, beſides ſome who get occaſional aid, are 36. The diſtribution for their ſupport amounts to more than L. 70 a-year. The means for furniſhing it are the weekly collections at the church, which juſt now may be reckoned L. 40; the intereſt of L. 600, which is a fund belonging to the poor, and the duties ariſing from marriages and burials. No aſſeſſment has for ſome time been levied from the pariſh.

Village.—The village of Errol is the only place in the pariſh, in which the number of buildings has lately increaſed. Its ſituation is remarkably pleaſant. Seated on an eminence, riſing by a gradual aſcent above the level of the country, the proſpect from it is extenſive and delightful. But the houſes in the village are as paltry as the ſituation is pleaſant. As there is no ſtone in the neighbourhood, they are moſtly built of clay, and huddled together, without much order or regularity. Excepting gentlemens ſeats, all the old buildings in the pariſh are of that ſubſtance, which, when properly cemented, is reckoned the warmeſt and moſt durable of any; and there are ſome fabrics of it ſtill in tolerable repair, the date of which cannot be aſcertained. In forming ſuch edifices, every man is his own maſon, raiſing them by times, and putting on one layer as the other is condenſated; and to this cauſe it is certainly owing that there are ſo few profeſſional maſons in the pariſh. It is thought that the people have now in ſome meaſure loſt the art of preparing the materials, and compacting them together, ſo as to give the clay-houſes the ſolidity they had in paſt times. They are, however, adopting a plan of building much more agreeable to the eye, and certainly no leſs uſeful for accommodation, moulding the mortar into bricks, and with theſe forming their dwellings. The proprietor having adopted the judicious plan of feuing out many of the old houſes, with their yards, ſeveral good houſes have of late been erected, and the village has increaſed in population.

River Tay.—The country is interſected in different places by ſmall tracts of water, called pows, which move ſlowly from the N. to the S. ſide of the carſe, and which are collected moſtly from the trenches opened for draining the ground.

ground. The Tay, into which they iſſue, is the only river in the pariſh. It furniſhes excellent ſalmon. Formerly the market here was well ſtocked with them, and their price always moderate; but the whole fiſhings having been let to companies of merchants in Perth, for a number of years the produce has been ſent in veſſels to London, where the demand for them has almoſt entirely removed them from the reach of the people, for whoſe uſe nature ſeems to have ordained them. They are ſtill caught in great quantities in the river, but not many immediately oppoſite to Errol. The Tay, by the conſtant action of the tide and current, making an impreſſion on a ſoft bank, and waſhing away every ſeaſon a valuable portion of land, the late proprietor of Errol built large ſtone dikes for the defence of his eſtate. Beſides ſtretching along the coaſt, piers were run ſome length into the river. They have had a conſiderable effect. A ſtrong crop of reeds grows annually in the mud, over which the tide regularly flows, which help to diminiſh its influence, and, by their roots, to conſolidate the earth; and the bank, which formerly was ſo yielding, is become a firm beach, covered with young planting, which is of uſe, both for ornament and protection. But what is profitable by land is hurtful by water. The long piers are ſuppoſed to have altered the poſition of the banks on which the ſalmon were caught, and they ſeem to have deſerted that part of the coaſt. There is a popular tradition, that the Tay anciently ran along the foot of the hills, by the N. of this pariſh; but if ever that was the caſe, it muſt have been at a much earlier period than is reported. The change from that courſe to the preſent, is ſuppoſed to have taken place in the 12th century; but there are charters on record of that date, confirming to the Hays of Errol, and other proprietors in the

neighbourhood

neighbourhood, or mentioning their diſponing to religious houſes, their right of fiſhing on the Tay, to which it cannot well be conceived how they had any title, unleſs the river always held the channel which it now occupies. That ſome branch of the Tay may have had its direction by the N. of the carſe, or rather that there may have been much water in the hollow ground, before the country was drained, is extremely probable; but there is little reaſon to imagine that the bed of the river has ever undergone any alteration.

Diſadvantages.—The pariſh has always had a bad name for roads. In a wet country, and deep ſoil, the track either of man or beaſt, when much uſed, and never repaired, ſoon becomes unpleaſant, if not impaſſable. The keeping the public ways in a tolerable condition, muſt have been attended with uncommon difficulty and expenſe, from the neceſſity there was of bringing the materials from a diſtance; but the taſk which was ſo arduous, being almoſt entirely neglected, the roads were in a ſtate of diſrepair, which cannot eaſily be conceived. There is a proſpect that this grievance will now be ſpeedily removed. In conſequence of an act of Parliament, lately obtained, a great poſt-road is carrying on from Perth to Dundee, which runs through this pariſh, and another turnpike is making from that to the ſhore of Errol, which will facilitate the communication both by land and water. When this important work is accompliſhed, it is hoped that the ſtatute-labour, which will not be neceſſary elſewhere, will be applied to the croſs-roads, that they alſo may be put in a tolerable ſtate. The landlords will certainly find, that the money expended in this way will be a valuable improvement to their eſtates.—Next to bad roads, the chief inconvenience

venience of which the people can complain, is the want of good water. There are few ſprings in the low grounds, and the ſmall ſtreams which iſſue from the hills are polluted before they reach the inhabitants of the carſe. The country people uſe the water of the pows, which, in time of drought, is of a ſtagnating nature, and in rain, is deeply tinctured by the clay. The inhabitants of the village dig pit-wells, which, when left open, afford the moſt nauſeous water; and even when incloſed, and built up with a pump, their produce is not of the moſt pleaſant or ſalutary quality. But this is a diſadvantage which it would be very difficult to remove, and which the people muſt endeavour to ſupport as part of their natural deſtination.

NUM-

NUMBER LXIV.

PARISH OF FORDOUN,

(COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER LESLIE.

Name, Situation, Soil, Surface, &c.

THE ancient name of this parish was *Paddy* Parish, from having been, it is said, for some time the residence, and afterwards the burial-place of St Palladius. *Fordoun* is said by some to signify, in Gaelic, 'the brow or 'declivity of a hill.' The parish is situated in the presbytery of Fordoun, and in the Synod of Angus and Mearns. It is of an oblong form, broadest in the middle. Its greatest length from E. to W. is about 10 English miles; its greatest breadth from S. to N. about 7. It is bounded on the N. by the parish of Strathaen; on the E. by Glenbervie and Arbuthnot; on the S. by Garvock, Laurencekirk, and Marykirk; and on the W. by Fettercairn. The S. side of the parish is very flat and plain, making a part of what is called the *How* of the Mearns, and of that still larger valley, called Strathmore, which is reckoned to reach from Stonehaven to Dumbarton. In this part of the parish, the soil is deep, clayey, and in general fertile. The north

north ſide of the pariſh is hilly and mountainous, the ſoil light and ſhallow, and not ſo fertile as the other. In the plain, the air is moiſt; towards the hills, dry. The moſt prevailing diſeaſes are agues and fevers; but, as within theſe few years much of the ſtagnated water has been drawn off, and the lands drained, theſe diſeaſes are not ſo frequent as formerly. There are ſeveral mineral ſprings, but none of any conſiderable reputation. They are ſometimes drank by thoſe in the neighbourhood, who are afflicted by ſtomach or graveliſh complaints. The moſt remarkable mountains are the *Grampian* Hills, which bound the pariſh to the N. and run through the iſland, from Aberdeen to Dumbarton. They are covered with heath and rock. There are ſome quarries of freeſtone, uſed for building.

Population, &c.—According to Dr Webſter's return the numbers were 1890. In the year 1771 there were about 2400 people in the pariſh; now (1790,) there are only 2258; of theſe are about 1158 males, and 1100 females. The annual average of births is from 70 to 80; of deaths from 60 to 70; of marriages from 16 to 20. There are 267 below 7 years of age, and 1991 above that age. There have been ſome few inſtances of perſons who have reached the age of 90, and 1 or 2 who have exceeded 100. Of the Eſtabliſhed Church are 2001; Epiſcopals, 106; Seceders, 151. The cauſe of depopulation ſeems to be the union of farms. The number of inhabited houſes is about 470; 5 perſons at an average to each. There are ſeveral villages in the pariſh. That of Auchinblay contains about 100 perſons, and there is a weekly fair in it chiefly for cattle, from Michaelmas to Chriſtmas. The village of Kincardine, in the weſt end of the pariſh, contains about 70 perſons. From this village the

county

county takes its name, and it was the county town till the reign of James VI. of Scotland, who removed the Courts from Kincardine to Stonehaven, which has continued to be the county town ever ſince.

Produce, &c.—The number of acres in the pariſh is computed to be 21,885 Scots, or 27,747 Engliſh. Not above the half of theſe are arable, the reſt are moors and hills; a few acres are planted with wood, chiefly fir, and ſome aſh and birch. About a third of the arable ground may be in turnip, potatoes, rye-graſs and clover, flax and ſome wheat; the other two thirds in oats, bear, barley and peas. The pariſh not only ſupplies itſelf with proviſions, but exports a conſiderable quantity of corn and meal, and ſells a conſiderable number of cattle, ſheep, and ſome horſes. Oats and peas are commonly ſown in March, and reaped in October. Bear and barley in the beginning of May, and reaped in September. Turnip is ſown in the end of June, and uſed for feeding cattle through the winter. Property in land ſells at 25 or 30 years purchaſe. Some of the heritors in this pariſh have of late given leaſes of 57 years to their tenants, encouragement to incloſe their grounds, and to build commodious houſes for themſelves and their families. Were the ſame plan univerſally adopted by landlords, it would tend very much to the comfort of the farmer, and to the improvement of the country. The yearly rent of the beſt arable grounds is from 15 s. to 20 s. Sterling the acre. Inferior grounds from 3 s. to 10 s. Sterling. A ſpirit of improvement, and conſequently of incloſing, is ſpreading among the tenants, owing to examples ſet before them, and the encouragement given them by the reſpectable gentlemen in the neighbourhood. The fences, on account of the ſcarcity of ſtones, are made of earth, with furze

furze or thorn hedges. In the years 1782 and 1783, this parish was involved in the same calamity with the rest of the country, and felt the same scarcity. Meal sold at 20 s. Sterling the boll. 57 bolls of meal were given by government for the supply of the most necessitous; 200 bolls were purchased with the poor's money, and several private benefactions were received; which were distributed among householders and others, who were in want.—The valued rent of the parish is L. 7125 Scots; the real rent may be between L. 3000 and L. 4000 Sterling.

Stipend, Poor, &c.—The value of the living, including the glebe, is about L. 100 Sterling. The Crown is patron. The manse was rebuilt in 1779; the church rebuilt in 1788. The number of poor who receive alms is between 20 and 30. The annual Sunday collections, at an average, amount to about L. 30 Sterling. Besides this, there is about L. 200 Sterling lent out, the interest of which is annually applied to the supply of the poor.

Prices and Wages.—Beef, veal, mutton, lamb, pork, &c. sell at about 3 d. or 4 d. the lb.; about 30 years ago they sold at about 2 d. A hen now sells at 7 d. and 8 d.; formerly at 4 d. and 5 d. Eggs are now sold at 3 d. the dozen; formerly at 1 d.; butter is sold at 7 d. and 8 d. the lb.; formerly at 4 d. and 5 d. Cheese at 5 s. the stone, formerly at 3 s. or 4 s. The wages of a day-labourer are 10 d. and 1 s.; of carpenters and masons 1 s. 6 d.; of tailors 6 d. and their victuals. The common wages of servants who are maintained in the family are as follows: a ploughman gets L. 6 Sterling a-year, inferior men servants from L. 2 to L. 5 Sterling; female servants from L. 2 to L. 4 Sterling; boys who are employed as herds for cattle, horses or sheep, from

L. 1 to L. 3 Sterling. Many of the common labourers who marry, and have houſes, are enabled to ſupport and bring up large families by the wages they receive.

Antiquities.—About 3 years ago, when incloſing a field near this place, was diſcovered an earthen urn with aſhes in it, in the centre of 4 large ſtones, with a flat ſtone on the top. The urn, when expoſed to the air, and touched, mouldered into duſt. It was probably a Roman urn, as at about a mile's diſtance from the place where it was diſcovered, there are ſtill the veſtiges of a Roman camp. The wall and ditch, which ſurrounded the camp itſelf, are ſcarcely diſcernible in many places, having been taken into the adjacent corn-fields; but the wall and ditch which ſurrounded the prætorium are very diſtinct, which ſhew it to have been an oblong ſquare.—In the weſt end of this pariſh at Kincardine, not far from Fettercairn, are the ruins of a caſtle, ſaid by tradition to have been once a Royal palace, belonging to *Kenneth* III. where he ſometimes reſided. It is conjectured by ſome, that he was making a progreſs from this caſtle to Fordoun, to worſhip at the ſhrine of St Palladius, when he was killed by Finella in the manner related by Buchanan.—Not far from Kincardine, and near to the Grampians, is a mount called Green Caſtle, by ſome thought to have been the reſidence of Finella, by others ſuppoſed to have been only a place of ſafety or retreat for the depredators, who frequently came down from the Highlands to carry off the cattle belonging to the inhabitants of the low country. This laſt conjecture is the moſt probable. That Finella had her reſidence in this neighbourhood is highly probable. The hill which runs between Fordoun and Kincardine has the name of Strathfinella.

There

There are many who ſuppoſe that the caſtle at Kincardine was not Kenneth's but Finella's caſtle.

Eminent Men.—This pariſh is remarkable for having been for ſome time the reſidence, and probably the burial-place of St Palladius, who was ſent by Pope Celeſtine into Scotland ſome time in the 5th century, to oppoſe the Pelagian hereſy, and by whom it is thought biſhops were firſt appointed in Scotland, having before that time been governed by monks. That Palladius reſided, and was probably buried here, appears from ſeveral circumſtances. There is a houſe which ſtill remains in the church-yard, called St Palladius's chapel, where, it is ſaid, the image of the ſaint was kept, and to which pilgrimages were performed from the moſt diſtant parts of Scotland. There is a well at the corner of the miniſter's garden, which goes by the name of Paldy well.—This pariſh is farther remarkable in having been, if not the birth-place, at leaſt, the temporary reſidence, and probably the burial-place of John Fordoun, author of the *Scotichronicon*, one of the moſt ancient and moſt authentic hiſtories which have been publiſhed of Scotland. He is thought by ſome to have been a man of property in this pariſh; by others, with greater probability, to have been a monk who reſided here.—This pariſh has alſo given birth to the preſent Lord Monboddo, a man well known in the literary world by his writings on ancient metaphyſics, and on the origin and progreſs of language.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—In the ſouth ſide of the pariſh, the fuel commonly uſed is coal, which is brought from Stonehaven or John's haven, the diſtance 10 Engliſh miles. Seventy-two ſtone of Scotch coals are ſold on the ſhore, at 8 s. and 9 s. Sterling. A barrel, that is 12 ſtone of Engliſh coals, is ſold for 1 s. 6 d. and 1 s. 8 d. In the north

north ſide of the pariſh, the moſt common fuel is peats and turfs, which are brought from the Grampian Hills.—The poſt-roads and bridges are kept in repair by the ſtatute-labour, which is commonly exacted in kind. The croſs roads are very much neglected. The inhabitants in general are much averſe to turnpikes, thinking they would render their travelling from place to place, and the carrying their goods to market, much more expenſive than at preſent.—Somewhat more than a year ago, a remarkable whirlwind happened at one of the great fairs in this country, called Paldy fair, and which ſtands in this pariſh, by which ſome of the tents in the market were unroofed. It was accompanied with thunder and lightning, and ſucceeded by a ſudden fall of rain and hail, which ſwelled the ſmall river of Bervie, which is the largeſt in the pariſh, and runs near to the market-place, to ſuch a height, that for ſeveral hours it was impoſſible to paſs it even on horſeback.—The language ſpoken is Engliſh, with the provincial accent. Many names of places are of Gaelic extraction.—The people here are taller and ſtronger made than the generality of thoſe to the north or weſt. Several of them exceed 6 feet. They are in general induſtrious.—The principal manufacture is ſpinning of flax, and weaving cloth, eſpecially linen cloth. Being at ſome diſtance from the ſea, the pariſhioners ſeem not to be fond of a ſeafaring life, and few of them chooſe a military one. They are in general humane and generous, contented and happy. They dreſs better, and live better in their own houſes now, than they did 20 or 30 years ago. At the ſame time, the taverns and public-houſes are not ſo much frequented now as then.

NUMBER LXV.

PARISH OF KINGLASSIE,

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES REID.

Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.

IT is the opinion of ſome, that the name is originally Gaelic, and expreſſive of the ſituation; others trace it from a ſaint, whoſe name was *Glaſs*, and point out a well of fine water, called St Glaſs's well. The pariſh is ſituated in the preſbytery of Kirkaldy, and Synod of Fife. The extent from W. to E. is about 4 computed miles, and 2 from N. to S. Its form is nearly a parallelogram, and it is bounded on the W. by part of Portmoak, Ballingry, and Auchterderran; on the E. by part of Markinch and Dyſart; on the N. by the river of Leven, and part of Portmoak and Leſlie; on the S. by part of Dyſart and Auchterderran. The diſtrict is partly flat on the banks of Lochty and Ore, two ſmall rivulets; at a ſmall diſtance from which, the ground has a regular aſcent, and forms 2 ridges. The ſoil is partly light loam, and partly ſtrong clay, with rich meadows on the banks of the rivers. The ſtreams would abound with excellent trout, were the people reſtrained from watering their flax in them. The Le-

ven

ven produces trout of the ſame quality with thoſe in Loch-leven, with pike and ſome ſalmon. The air in the flat part of the pariſh is damp, and often occaſions rheumatiſms. There are many ſtone quarries and coal mines. Coal is the only fuel. The mine preſently worked is eſteemed the beſt burning coal in Fife. The coals are ſold on the hill at 6d. the load, each load weighing 22 ſtone Dutch weight. There are 2 moors, both covered with ſtones, heath, and furze; but being commonties, no attempt is made to divide or bring them into a better ſtate, which might be done at ſmall expence.

Population.—At the time of Dr Webſter's report, the numbers were 998. Population has not varied much theſe 20 years. The number of ſouls was then about 1200, and does not at this day exceed it. Though the inhabitants of the village have increaſed from 150 to 250, the other parts of the pariſh have ſuffered a proportionable decreaſe, from a number of the ſmall farms being thrown into one. Births are nearly 25 or 30 annually; but as the half of the heads of families adhere to ſome or other of the Sectaries, the births of their children cannot be well aſcertained; as few of them are inclined to have their names recorded in the pariſh regiſter, which ſubjects them to a ſmall expence. There are 34 farms in this pariſh, beſides cottagers and feuers. The trades are weavers, employed by the manufacturers in the coaſt towns, with maſons, &c.

Agriculture, &c.—Plantations are in a very proſperous ſtate in many places. The extent of the pariſh is about 6000 acres nearly. The whole rent in money and victual is about L. 3000 yearly. There is ſcarcely one-third of the land in tillage. Above two-thirds in paſturage. The pariſh is ſufficient to ſupply itſelf in proviſions, and can ſend to maket about

about 200 black cattle, and 40 horſes annually, beſides wheat, barley, and oat-meal to a conſiderable amount. The breed of cattle is greatly improved in ſize and quality. Oxen, after ploughing is over, ſell at L. 20, and ſome at L. 24 the yoke, for putting on graſs-fields. The breed of draught horſes is alſo much improved within theſe 20 years, owing to the particular attention of Major Aytoun of Inchdairnie, who ſent down from England the beſt ſtallions and Flanders mares ever ſeen in this part of the country. Formerly each farmer kept or bred ſheep; but now there are none, except a few ewes and lambs for the uſe of families, owing to the general practice of incloſing with ditch and hedge and Galloway dikes, and laying down the incloſed fields with graſs-ſeeds. Nearly 1800 cattle, including horſes, are paſtured here annually. There are ſown with lintſeed from 80 to 100 acres; with oats and barley about 1200; with wheat above 120. Potatoes, turnip and ſummer fallow, occupy 200. Oats and peas are ſown in March, lintſeed in middle of April, barley from end of April to end of May.

Stipend, Poor, &c.—The living is 6 chalders victual, 3 bear, and 3 meal, with L. 40 money. The Counteſs of Rothes has the patronage. The church was repaired in 1773, and the manſe rebuilt in 1774. There are 23 heritors who pay ſtipend; of this number 6 are feuers. The feuers only reſide.—The uſual number of poor, including their children, are between 30 and 40. They are not allowed to beg, the pariſh funds being ſufficient for their ſubſiſtence, and amount in whole to near L. 40 yearly, in land, money and collections.

Prices and Wages.—During ſpring and ſummer, good beef is ſold at 5 d. the pound, veal, mutton and lamb, from

from 4½ d. to 5 d. and 6 d. all Tron weight, within the bounds of the presbytery of Kirkaldy. The lower class use no animal food, but live on meal, potatoes, milk and small beer, with kail.—A common labourer earns 1 s. a-day. Servants wages are of late greatly increased. A man servant's wages for the plough and cart are from L. 5, 5 s. to L. 7, 7 s. yearly. Maid servants from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 3.

Miscellaneous Observations.—There is only one village in this parish.—Toll-bars are lately erected.—Rent of land varies with the soil and crops. Some acres are let at 5 s. each, others at 15 s. and L. 1, 10 s.; and when let for lint-seed or potatoes, at L. 3, L. 4, and L. 5. There is a hill called Goat-milk Hill, let 20 years ago at L. 25, for some years past it rents at L. 120; it is 24 acres. The rents of farms are from L. 20 to L. 200, and the highest rent is for the most part the cheapest bargain. Twenty years ago, few farms in this parish were inclosed; now every farm is either inclosed in whole, or in part, to which the people are now perfectly reconciled.—Civilization of manners has made a little progress among farmers and the better sort of inhabitants. The lower class seem, in a great measure, to retain the rough manners and barbarous customs of their ancestors, while each vie with the other in expensive dress, often above their station, or what they can seldom afford; which may be occasioned by their high wages, and reduced prices of home manufactures, as well as a taste for that species of luxury.

NUMBER LXVI.

PARISH OF CRAWFORD,

(COUNTY OF LANARK.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES MACONOCHIE.

Name, Situation, Surface, Climate, Soil, &c.

THIS parish was anciently known by the name of *Douglas-moor*, and part of it by that of *Friar-moor*. The Douglas family have still lands in this place, and that they had once great property in it, appears from the superiorities of a great part of the parish belonging to Lord Douglas, the representative of that family. At what time the name *Crawford* or *Crawford-moor* began to prevail, I have not been able to learn. The parish is in the presbytery of Lanark, and Synod of Glasgow and Air. Crawford, which forms the S. E. corner of Lanarkshire, is bounded by 8 or 9 different parishes; but more particularly, it has Tweed's-muir to the E.; Durisdeer to the S.; Crawford-John to the W.; and Lamington to the N. The length from S. E. to N. W. in other words, from the source of the Daire (the principal branch of the Clyde) to the place where the Clyde leaves the parish, is 18 miles. The breadth from the boundary toward Wanlock-head to that on Tweed's-muir, is between 15 and

16 miles. All this extent of country, a few appendages excepted, is poſſeſſed by 14 farmers or ſtoremaſters. The 3 principal rivers in the ſouth of Scotland, viz. the Clyde, the Tweed and the Annan, have their ſources in the hills which divide us from Tweed's-muir. The hill called the Lauders is chiefly within this pariſh, and is the higheſt in the ſouth of Scotland; its elevation above the ſea being 3150 feet. As to the climate, the following fact may be ſtated: In January 1785, a man periſhed here in the ſnow; his body, which was not found till the month of April following, was then ſcarcely begun to putrefy. That winter was indeed remarkable for ſnow and drift, and the ſpring for froſt. At preſent, (middle of June 1791), the froſt, attended with ſhowers of hail, has been for ſome nights ſo ſtrong as to freeze water to the thickneſs of a quarter of an inch at leaſt. The conſequences have been hurtful to potatoes, leaves of trees, kail, &c. Our village is 30 miles diſtant from Dumfries, 40 from Glaſgow, and rather more from Edinburgh. There is a viſible deſcent on every ſide, except perhaps toward Crawford-John and Moor-kirk.

Agriculture, &c.—The greateſt part of the pariſh conſiſts of hills or moors. Theſe are abundantly fit for paſture. Many of them are quite green. Others, which are partly covered with heath, have a great deal of the graſs called bent, which becomes very luxuriant in the months of July and Auguſt. In ſome high places, there is very good moſs, out of which peats are dug, which conſtitute the principal fuel. In many diſtricts where peats cannot be dug, the earth is blackiſh, and inclined to moſs. The valleys conſiſt generally of a ſpongy light ſoil, and ſometimes of clay, and are all covered during the ſummer with a very fine verdure. The wet and ſwampy grounds pro-

duce

duce ſpratts, which are often cut and made into hay. At the ſame time, it muſt be acknowledged, that the face of our country is naked, and how fit ſoever for paſture on the whole, there is waſte ground in many places. Foreſts or natural wood have been deſtroyed long ago, of which, however, there are ſome ſmall remains. As to plantations either of trees or hedges, we have made but little progreſs. Stone fences are even in their infancy. There are a few trees, ſome of which are ſeemingly of great age, about the caſtle of Crawford. The late Mr Irvin planted ſome ſtrips round his houſe, which begin to decay already. Sheep and trees thrive not together. The great obſtacle to improvements in this way, and perhaps in all others, ariſes from a cauſe, which, in all likelihood, will not be ſoon removed; the principal heritors of the pariſh live at a diſtance from it.—One improvement has taken place lately, which may be conſidered as preparative to many others. The public road from Douglas mill to Moffat, which goes through our pariſh, has been completed within theſe 10 years. The Glaſgow and Carliſle carriers go this road every week, and for 3 years paſt, one mail-coach comes down, and another goes up every day.—The proportion of arable ground to that of paſture, may be as 1 to 200: Some hold it to be no more than 1 to 300. There are ſeveral farms in the higher parts of the pariſh, where grain has not been ſown in the memory of man. The proportion of the arable to the ground actually ploughed every year, is about 1 to 20. Our ſituation and climate have been adverſe to agriculture, even in our loweſt grounds. The common oats were not ripe laſt year (1790) when the froſt came, which was about the 9th of October. All our crops ſince 1782, one only excepted, have been hurt more or leſs by the froſt.—Our ſoil being wet and ſpongy, manure can ſeldom be provided

vided during the winter, and in the ſummer, our ſtore-maſters are employed in a different way. This gives our fields an uncouth look, and even renders the crops later than they would otherwiſe be. This defect is in ſome meaſure ſupplied by the natural fertility of our lands.

When the ſeaſons are good, no ground in Clydeſdale produces more plentifully; but even in the beſt years, the grain is ſmall. Oats and barley are the common, or only crops. Peas are ſometimes tried, but ſeldom with ſucceſs. Potatoes and flax are cultivated for private uſe. Few or none take the trouble to lay down fields with graſs-ſeeds, or to ſow turnip.—Heretofore, a great number of cows were keeped on each farm; but ſheep is now the grand object of attention. The beſt of them, that is, thoſe come to the age of 3 or 4 years, ſell from 12 s. to 15 s. the head. The ſheep reared here, are thoſe with black faces and black feet; conſequently the wool is coarſe, and has a mixture of black. The ſtoremaſters, however, look upon the black faced ſheep as moſt profitable on the whole. They are ſtrong, which fits them for enduring the colds of winter, and they grow to a great ſize. The wool ſold here about 9 years ago from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. 6 d. the ſtone. None of it is now ſold for leſs than 5 s. Part of it goes to England by land-carriage, and part of it is ſhipped at Leith. It is not the cuſtom to waſh the ſheep before they are ſhorn. The farmers are apprehenſive leſt the putting of them into the water ſhould prevent their fattening. A little more attention, however, begins to be ſhewn to the wool, in conſequence of the riſe of the price. I ſhould take the average price of a ſheep's graſs to be at preſent 2 s. or nearly ſo.—There is not a more active or intelligent ſet in this country than our ſtoremaſters.—The preſent rent of the pariſh is L. 3400. The farmers ſay, that the rents are too high, and that if there happen any fall

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in the price of ſheep, they cannot ſtand it. None of our heritors take entry money or graſſum, except one.

Population.—At the time of Dr Webſter's report, the numbers were 2009. The population of Crawford amounts at preſent to about 520 perſons, excluſive of Leadhills, where the numbers amount at preſent to 970; in all, 1490. The baptiſms of children belonging to parents of the Eſtabliſhed Church are commonly from 12 to 14 annually. The bulk of the people belong to the Eſtabliſhed Church; about 6 Seceders, and 20 Cameronians. The population has been greatly reduced. About 40 years ago, the numbers, I am told, were at leaſt double of what they are at preſent; and, by all accounts, the farmers were then more than double their preſent number. As the engroſſing of farms went on, the inhabitants thinned.

Wages, &c.—The old people ſay, that one ſervant does as much work now as two in former times. This is in ſome degree requiſite, as the wages are alſo about doubled. A maid ſervant, fit for out-door work, that is, for hoeing potatoes, working at hay, milking ewes and reaping corn, receives 40 s. in the ſummer half-year, whereas, 30 years ago, ſhe would ſcarcely have got L. 1. A ploughman receives from L. 6 to L. 8 yearly; beſides theſe who live in the maſter's houſe, and have victuals there, there are herds who commonly live in a ſeparate houſe. They are allowed graſs for a certain number of ſheep and cows, and a certain quantity of meal for board, which in all amounts from L. 10 to L. 12 a-year. Every ſhepherd is attended by his dog; he ſtands in the valley, and ſends the dog up the hill to the ſheep. When the animal hath executed in part the commiſſion with which he was ſent out, he turns, looks at his maſter, and waits for further orders,

orders. When, by certain words, or rather vocal ſounds, he hath learned anew the will of his maſter, he ſets off again, and moves the ſheep in whatever direction he is commanded. But in a ſevere winter, the buſineſs is more ſerious. When it drifts, the ſhepherds are obliged to ſtand upon the hills all night with the ſheep, leſt they ſhould be ſuffocated in the ſnow, which ſometimes happens. How ſevere, however, the weather may be, the ſheep are ſeldom fed upon hay.

Stipend, School, Poor.—The ſtipend is L. 1000 Scots. The King is patron; but ſome ſay, that the right is veſted in the family of Douglas. The church, manſe, and ſchool-houſe are old buildings, and not in good repair.—The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is L. 100 Scots. The children at ſchool, conſidering our population, and the diſtance of ſome parts of the pariſh from the ſchool, are numerous, being ſeldom under 30. The quarterly fees are from 1s. to 2s. 6d.—Of poor we have not a great number. There have not been, at any one time during my incumbency, above 15 or 16 on the roll. At preſent there is only 10. To theſe the ſeſſion makes a diſtribution quarterly. The funds ariſe from collections in the church, and the intereſt of a ſmall ſum of money. We diſtribute at preſent, to the amount of L. 2, 10s. on quarter-day, beſide ſupplying the exigencies that occur during the quarter, which may make about 10s. more. At an average, however, our diſtributions do not exceed 40s. while our numbers are ſo few. What has been now ſaid of our poor, is to be underſtood excluſively of Leadhills. The poor of Leadhills, about 17 in number, are ſupported by the Earl of Hopetoun, and the collections that are made in the chapel there.

Lead

Lead Mines.—Leadhills contain the moſt famous and ancient lead mines in Scotland. There are two companies there, the affairs of which are conducted with great judgment and œconomy. The moſt conſiderable is that known by the name of the Scotch Mining Company, of which Mr Stirling is overſeer. The firſt object that ſtrikes the eye, in this mountainous region, is the ſpot of ground round this gentleman's houſe. The houſe itſelf is on the ſame level with the top of Tintock, which is looked upon as a very high hill in the part of the country where it is ſituated. The ſpot I mention, cannot amount to more than 3 acres. It contains, beſide an houſe-ſtead, offices, and counting-room, a bowling green, a garden, and a park which feeds two cows, with ſtrips of planting, which beautifully interline and ſurround the whole. The park is not above an acre, yet, as I ſaid, it feeds two cows. The ground within half a gun-ſhot of it, without the incloſure, would be highly rented at 1s. the acre. This ſhews what culture will effect even in a wilderneſs. There are nearly 200 men employed by the Scotch Mining Company. Theſe are ſubdivided into pickmen, ſmelters, waſhers, and labourers, beſides carpenters and ſmiths. The payment of the pickmen depends upon the quantity of lead found. Five or ſix of them join, and take what they call a bargain, and according as it proves more or leſs productive of lead, their wages are more or leſs. But at an average, I am told every man receives from L. 18 to L. 20 a-year. A ſmelter receives fully as much. Moſt of the waſhers are very young, their wages therefore are leſs. The labourers who clear away rubbiſh from behind the pickmen, make each from L. 12 to L. 14 a-year. Meal and barley are purchaſed by both overſeers, and reſerved in ſtores, out of which all the hands employed by the reſpective Companies, receive every week a certain quantity for their families,

which

which makes part of their pay. They work in the mines only 6 hours in the 24. Having therefore a great deal of ſpare time, they employ themſelves in reading, and for this purpoſe have been at the expence of fitting up a library, out of which every one who contributes to the expence receives books. There is a very good ſchool in the place. I ſhall only farther obſerve, that the lead has for ſeveral years paſt been found very plentifully; and that it fetches a much higher price at market than it did 10 years ago. The Earl of Hopetoun receives the ſixth bar for rent. His bailie, who ſees all the lead weighed, and that for the rent ſent apart, has favoured me with a note of the number of bars ſmelted at Leadhills, that is, by the two Companies, in 1786 and in 1790, and the crops, if I may be allowed to call them ſo, in theſe ſeveral years, were to one another nearly in the proportion of 10 to 18; that of 1790 amounting to within a very few bars of 18,000; whereas that of 1786 amounted only to 10,080. But the product of 1786 is looked upon as a very bad crop. The price of lead roſe conſiderably after the concluſion of the American war. At one time it was about a third more. I am told, that at preſent it has rather fallen a little; and that the chief vents for it are Holland and Ruſſia.

Village of Crawford.—This town, for ſuch is the name it goes by, conſiſts of above 20 freedoms, which, till within theſe 15 years, were in the form of run-rig. Theſe freedoms were not freeholds; they were all holden of ſuperiors, either of the Crawfords or Douglaſſes. Beſides the maſters of theſe freedoms, who were called Lairds, and their wives Ladies, there was a ſubordinate rank, who feued ground for a houſe and a yard. Each freedom conſiſted of 4 or 5 acres of croft land, parcelled out in all the different parts of the town, with a privilege of keeping a certain number

number of ſheep, cows, and horſes, on the hill or common paſture. This little republic was governed by a *birley court*, in which every proprietor of a freedom had a vote. If the proprietor reſided not in the place, his tenant voted for him. The great buſineſs of the court was to determine the proportion and number of ſheep, cows, and horſes, which the reſpective proprietors ſhould keep on the common paſture. As there was but little ſubordination in the court, it was remarkable for nothing ſo much as the noiſe that attended its deliberations. From the court that was held weekly, the members adjourned to an ale-houſe. The bills at the ale-houſe were not cleared above once or twice in the year, namely, when ſome ſheep or a cow had been ſold, and payment received. Thus the year went round. No time was beſtowed, in what may be called cultivating and improving their property. The dung they put upon their fields, as they threw it out of their byres; and, if they found any man more induſtrious than themſelves, that was diſpoſed to purchaſe it, they took not that trouble. Lime, which is at no great diſtance, they never thought of driving. With the natural, I had almoſt ſaid with the ſpontaneous produce of the ſoil, were theſe men content. What a contraſt between theſe habits, and the activity and diligence of our preſent farmers! Hence I conclude, that in order to excite induſtry in a country, ſomething more is neceſſary than that every man have his houſe and his field. It is neceſſary, that Gothic manners, or the indolent habit of all barbarians, be baniſhed, and a ſpirit of ambition and interpriſe be introduced. There is ſtill great want of induſtry in our village; yet the old people ſpeak of the eaſy life of former times, as making the moſt ſtriking difference between them and the preſent. Since the diviſion of the town, cultivation is mended. There are now more ſtone

fences on what was formerly called the town of Crawford, than there are in all the pariſh beſides. One of my neighbours has been at conſiderable expenſe, not only in incloſing his freedom, and building a houſe, but in improving his ground, and planting trees.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—With reſpect to the common people in this pariſh, and indeed, in all the pariſhes round me, I obſerve a ſobriety or regard to moral conduct, which, I hope, proceeds from religious principle. The herds and their wives, who live at too great a diſtance from the public ſchool to ſend their children thither, are careful to teach them not only to read the Bible, but to get pſalms by heart, &c. There may be inſtances of petty thefts, but great or daring ones are very rare. The greateſt nuiſances to which we are expoſed, are ſtrolling beggars, who go about the country, more eſpecially at the time of ſhearing the ſheep, and men in trowſers who pretend to be ſailors in diſtreſs.—The prevailing diſtempers or ailments in this place, are the rheumatiſm and the ſcurvy. The humidity of our air is ſufficient to account for the former, and I aſcribe the latter to the manner of living. Salt mutton and beef conſtitute a principle article of food. The people in general are extremely fond of them, and at the ſame time are averſe to vegetables. In the mid-land parts of the county of Banff, where I was born, fleſh made ſeldom a part of the ordinary diet of the common people; when it was uſed, it was eaten indeed without vegetables, but it was always eaten in a manner freſh. Both rheumatiſms and ſcurvy were much leſs frequently ſubjects of complaint there than here.—The ancient ſtate of this pariſh furniſhes perhaps as much ſubject for ſpeculation as the preſent. We have 2 Roman roads, and no leſs than the ſites of 3 camps,

ſaid

ſaid to be Roman, but even the veſtiges are greatly defaced. There are, however, evident marks of what was the ſtate of the country in general about 200 years ago. Tower Lindſay, which is adjacent to the village on the other ſide of the Clyde, was, no doubt, a fortified place. The preſent caſtle ſcarcely deſerves the name; but the ancient tower was famous even in the days of Wallace. There is a tradition, that it was ſtormed by that hero, and 50 Engliſhmen killed in it. It now lies in the form of a large heap of earth, all over green. The houſes on the farms in the moor were formerly ſtone-vaults, ſome of which remain. Theſe are ſtill pointed to as the ſtrong holds where the inhabitants preſerved themſelves and their property, at the time when the Douglaſſes of Clydeſdale, and the Jardines and Johnſtones of Annandale, were carrying on their hoſtilities and depredations.—There are hills in the pariſh, called watches, where perſons ſat in order to give notice on the firſt approach of an enemy. Theſe notices were communicated almoſt inſtantaneouſly, from the head of the pariſh to the lower end, by ſmoke in the day, and flame in the night.—Queen Elizabeth, who had the direction of affairs in this country during the captivity of the unfortunate Mary, ſent down a German to gather gold duſt in the waters of Elvan and Glengonar, both which have their ſources in the hills where the lead is found. This man wrote an account of his diſcoveries and labours, the manuſcript of which is in the Advocate's library. The place where he waſhed the gold, took its name from the event, and is called the *Gold Scour*. There are verſes ſtill repeated in the pariſh, importing that he made a great fortune. Be that as it will, the buſineſs was reſumed by order of the late Earl of Hopetoun, and, in a little time, diſcontinued again, as being leſs profitable than common labour. Gold duſt

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is still found on the tops of the rocks, but the searching for it is rather matter of amusement, than of serious occupation. The particles, I am told, seldom exceed in size the point of a small pin.

NUM-

NUMBER LXVII.

PARISH OF KIRKPATRICK-JUXTA,

(COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.)

By the Rev. Mr GABRIEL SCOT.

Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.

KIRKPATRICK has been evidently named after St Patrick, and is more properly ſpelled Kil Patrick. It is ſituated in the Synod of Dumfries, in the preſbytery of Lochmaben. Its form is triangular, about 8 miles on each ſide. It lies on the S. W. ſide of the Annan, oppoſite to the pariſh of Moffat, by which it is bounded on the E. and N. On the S. E. it is bounded by Wamphrey; on the S. by Johnſton; on the S. W. by Kirkmichael and Cloſeburn; on the N. W. by Crawford. The general appearance is rather bleak, interſperſed with moſs and moor, and almoſt without incloſures, For a mile S. W. of the Annan, it is flat and pretty populous. To the weſtward it is heathy and hilly. At the weſtern extremity ſtands the mountain of Queenſberry, whoſe top is about 3000 feet above the ſea. The ſoil is ſhallow, but dry and moderately fertile. By means of turnpike roads lately made, and the encouragement given by the Earl of Hopetoun, it is now improving

ving by lime brought above 20 miles. The air is rather moiſt, from frequent rains from S. and S. W. but healthy, and free from agues. In 1789, there were 204 days wet or ſhowery.

Population.—By Dr Webſter's report, the numbers were 794. The population of the pariſh is rather decreaſed within the laſt 50 years. The number of farmers is one half diminiſhed. 'Tis Lord Hopetoun's deſign to increaſe them. The preſent population is 617; 298 males; 319 females. Average of births 16; deaths 14; marriages 7; under 10, 156; between 10 and 20, 148; 20 and 30, 65; 30 and 40, 74; 40 and 50, 75; 50 and 60, 50; 60 and 70, 28; 70 and 80, 18; 80 and 90, 1; 90 and 100, 2. Families of farmers 52; other families 71; tradeſmen 15; ſervants male and female, all (at leaſt occaſionally) labourers 62; Seceders 17; bachelors above the age of 21, 42; married men and widowers 95. Average of children alive of each family, including thoſe of widowers and widows $3\frac{1}{5}$. Inhabited houſes 132; number of perſons to each, (excluſive of 9 ſolitary female cottagers,) fully 5.

Productions, Agriculture, &c.—Natural productions are oak, aſh, birch, alder, hazel, &c. Much oak of a large growth is dug up in the moſſes. There are ſeveral late plantations of fir. Broom and furze abound. We have alſo alder, juniper, bird-cherry, crab, mountain aſh. Wild ſtrawberries, cranberries, nut-berries and others, peculiar to moors and mountains. That ſpecies of graſs which grows on marſhy ground, commonly called *ſpratt*, is much uſed for fodder. 'Tis ſomewhat remarkable, that the land where it grows, though not ſubject to be overflowed with water, bears annual cropping, without being manured or paſ-

tured

tured except in the latter end of the year. Moſs accumulates very quickly upon ſtones when expoſed to the weather, and likewiſe upon trees. There are in tillage 438 acres; for potatoes 35 acres; barley and big 20; almoſt all the reſt for oats. There are of black cattle 625; ſheep 448 ſcores; horſes 95. The black cattle in this country are ſmall, and moſtly without horns; for the want of which, they are commonly preferred. The ſheep are all of the ſhort kind, large, but coarſe woolled. They are tarred very thick, about a Scots pint of tar being allowed to 5 ſheep. The Engliſh ſheep are coming into repute in the neighbourhood. Lord Hopetoun keeps a few Spaniſh, which thrive pretty well. In general, the pariſh muſt be preſumed to export proviſions. But a very few acres are ſown with rye-graſs and clover. The whole of the pariſh, except about 600 acres, is in paſture. They ſow from the beginning of March to the middle of April, and begin to reap in the firſt week of September. The land-rent of the pariſh is about L. 1827. There are about 40 ploughs, almoſt all of the Scotch kind, and as many carts. Almoſt every farm in the pariſh having a conſiderable variety of ſoil, it can only be computed that the arable land, if let ſeparately, would rent from 6s. to 14s.; good bog meadow, as it requires little trouble or expence, might yield 12s. or 14s. There is no land capable of tillage, let excluſively for paſture. The higheſt rent in the pariſh is that of a ſheep farm, *viz.* L. 220. Other ſheep farms are rented at L. 100, and upwards. Theſe have all more or leſs of arable land, from 8 to 30 acres. The average rent of thoſe farms, on which there are no ſheep, is L. 25. The number of theſe is increaſing.—In 1782 and 1783, much corn was exported from this county both by land and ſea. The oatmeal ſold then at 2s. 6d. the ſtone. The poor certainly depend

depend more on potatoes in this county, than in any other in the South of Scotland.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The ſtipend is L. 72, 4s. including L. 5 for communion-elements. The glebe is worth about L. 4, 10s. a-year. The Earl of Hopetoun is patron, as curator for the Marquis of Annandale. The church ſeems to have been built in 1676, thatched with heath till 1736, then raiſed in the walls and ſlated. The manſe was built in 1788. The number of heritors is 9. None reſide but one inconſiderable proprietor.—There was no *legal* ſchool in this pariſh till about 20 years ago. The ſalary is only L. 11, and the wages *a-quarter*, for reading, are no more than 1s. The number of ſcholars in ſummer is very ſmall, in winter 40 or 50. Had not the preſent teacher been diſabled for working as a common maſon, he muſt have ſpurned at ſuch a livelihood as this.—About 12 poor regularly receive alms; about L. 7 is collected at the church doors.

Prices, Wages, &c.—The price of oats within the laſt 40 years has increaſed about one third. Beef and mutton ſell at preſent about 4d. the pound, which is more than one third above their price 40 years ago. A man's wages for labour in huſbandry, are in ſummer about 8d. and 10d. with victuals; a carpenter's 10d.; a maſon's 1s.; a tailor's 8d.; all with victuals. The common fuel is peat, dug on almoſt every farm: when ſold at Moffat the average price of a ſmall cart-load is 2s. As the earnings of common labourers are ſmall, their ſubſiſtence and accommodation muſt be ſcanty and mean. Small as their expenditure is, I find it very difficult to balance it with their earnings. From all the information I can obtain, I apprehend the following

calculation

calculation to be pretty near the truth. The labourer has a wife and 4 children, the eldeſt 13 years, the youngeſt 5.

Earnings.

The man earns, with victuals, 8d. a-day for 265 days	L.	8	16 8
Childrens wages		1	0 0
Charity or preſents		0	10 0
	L.	10	6 8

Expenſes.

Oat-meal, 40 ſtone, at 1s. 8d. the ſtone	L.	3	6 8
Butcher-meat		1	0 0
Wool, 2 ſtone, ſpun for clothes		0	12 0
Milk and butter		1	5 0
Salt		0	4 0
Houſe rent		0	16 0
Barley, 4 ſtone		0	6 8
Shoes		0	15 0
Potatoes for ſeed, and bought		0	10 0
Linen, aprons, &c.		0	10 0
Lying in and burials, &c.		0	10 0
Peat		0	7 0
Tools, repairs of houſe and furniture		0	4 4
	L.	10	6 8

I have omitted ſeveral articles of dreſs and finery, watch, pocket money at weddings, fairs, &c. education of children at ſchool, &c. How theſe can be defrayed by the earnings of the wife from harveſt work or ſpinning beyond what is neceſſary for the family, 'tis difficult to conceive. Many however, who ſeem to live according to the above calcula-

tion, receive no public charity. The wages of a man ſervant are from L. 6 to L. 8 a-year; of a woman from L. 2, 10s. to L. 4.

Antiquities.—There is a Roman road yet to be traced running through the pariſh from S. to N. It comes up the E. bank of Annan, from the ruins of a large camp at Burnſwork, in the pariſh of Middlebie, and paſſes here a place called *Tatius*-holm, where there are ſome remains of a ſquare encampment of ſmall extent. Upon digging, I could only find ſome earthen ware in fragments, very ſtrong and coarſe. I have procured from the people who have tilled the adjoining fields, a few bits of green and party-coloured glaſs, and ſmall pieces of a ſubſtance reſembling marble, about half an inch broad, round, ſmooth, and flat on one ſide. Some have been found which were perforated in the middle.—Near the Roman road where it enters the pariſh of Moffat, there was found in a moſs about three years ago, a piece of gold of a ſemicircular form, evidently a fragment, in length 3 or 4 inches. On the outer edge it was ornamented with a border, in which were the following letters formed by cutting through the interſtices, IOV. AVG. VOT. XX.—There are a great number of *cairns* or *burians*; alſo many circular incloſures on hills and eminences, formed by a great quantity of ſtones, which have now no appearance of having been built. They meaſure in diameter from 100 to 200 feet. They are commonly ſuppoſed to have been uſed for ſecuring the cattle from enemies and thieves, in a country much infeſted with both. There are ſeveral ruins, called by the common people *towers*, which have been ſurrounded by ditches and walls. By far the moſt remarkable of theſe is the *park* of *Achancaſs*. The walls, which are about 150 feet ſquare, and

and ſome parts of which are ſtill ſtanding to the height of 20 feet, are no leſs than 15 feet in thickneſs. The fort had been ſupplied with water by a leaden pipe, part of which was lately dug up. The place is ſtrong by nature, from the precipices and moraſſes by which it is ſurrounded.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The people in general are quiet, ſober and contented. No murder, ſuicide nor robbery, is known to have happened in the pariſh.—Almoſt every family ſpins coarſe cloth for its own uſe; but unfortunately there is no conſiderable woollen manufacture in all Annandale. Great part of the wool is exported to England.—The condition of the people might, in my humble opinion, be much ameliorated, if the proprietors of land would grant them longer leaſes and better houſes, and either incloſe their grounds, where arable, or encourage their tenants to do it. By ſuch means, many acres not worth more at preſent than 1 s. a-year, might be improved ſo as to yield in a few years 12 s. or 15 s. So eager are the tenants here for tacks, that for a 19 year tack of a very ſmall farm, moderately rented, 6 or 8 times the amount of the rent is ſometimes paid as entries. There are particular reaſons for the Marquis of Annandale's lands not being let in long leaſes; but the people have ſuch a well founded confidence in the honour and generoſity of the Earl of Hopetoun, that they do not ſeem to ſuffer much from the want of them.—Fifty years ago, ſilk and cotton were very rarely to be ſeen; now a ſervant maid cannot be in dreſs without both. There were then no watches but the miniſter's; now there is ſcarcely a man ſervant who is without one. Clocks, moſtly of wood, are alſo very common. Seventy years ago, there was not a pane of glaſs, except in

two

two houſes; now every houſe has at leaſt one glaſs window. In other reſpects, however, the houſes of the common people have improved little or nothing. Seventy years ago, the hire of a man ſervant was about L. 1, 4 s. of a woman ſcarcely 10 s. a-year.—The common people were certainly more ignorant 50 years ago than at preſent. Several at that time had not learned either to write or read; now they can all read pretty well, and all the men at leaſt can write. Several of the farmers read hiſtory, magazines and newſpapers. The vulgar read almoſt nothing but books on religious ſubjects. Many of them are too fond of controverſial divinity; a taſte which the Diſſenters are very diligent in promoting, and which the few books they are acquainted with, are rather calculated to confirm. To diſcourage this unhappy propenſity, ſo common through a great part of Scotland, and to recommend books of a more rational and inſtructive nature, ſeems an object worthy of a clergyman. —Inoculation of the ſmall-pox is far from being general in this country. The common people are ſtrongly prejudiced againſt it. To this circumſtance a large proportion of the deaths which happen in this pariſh is to be aſcribed.—Rheumatiſm is univerſally allowed to be much more common now than it was 40 years ago. I have heard no ſatisfactory reaſons aſſigned for its increaſe. Thinner clothing, and the more general uſe of linen next the ſkin, may perhaps account for it in part.

NUM-

NUMBER LXVIII.

PARISH OF KIRKPATRICK-IRONGRAY,

(COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES FINNAN.

Situation, Soil, Surface, Air, &c.

KIRKPATRICK-Irongray, is one of the 10 pariſhes in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, lying E. of the water of Urr, and within the preſbytery and Synod of Dumfries. It is bounded on the E. within 2 miles of Dumfries, by the pariſh of Terregles, which is alſo its limit for a good way on the S. On the ſame quarter likewiſe, it is divided from Lochrutton, by ſome miles of a dead running body of water, called the Bogrie-lane. The pariſhes of Urr, Kirkpatrick-Durham, and Holywood, terminate Irongray in moor-lands to the W. and a ſtream called Speddoch-burn, running N. into the river Cairn, alſo divides it from Holywood, as does the ſaid river for more than 2 miles down. The pariſh is computed to be about 9 miles long, and though narrow in the E. next to Dumfries, it increaſes in breadth almoſt the whole way to the W. and may be about 3 miles broad at the centre. The ſoil is generally dry, conſiſting of a kindly mould, not very deep, mixed with ſmooth

ſmooth ſtones, which are of ſuch a ſize as not to ſtop the plough. Of this ſort of land there are above 500 acres, all arable, for 2 miles up from the eaſtern extremity. The pariſh then riſes into hills, except a track of low land in ſome parts, on both ſides the river Cluden. Theſe hills, as well as the fine track of land below, have been moſtly marled, and though it is ſaid they were covered with heath of old, yet having been ploughed, they have now a green ſurface, and are good paſture; but though the ſoil is intrinſically good, the climate is cold, and the crops, though luxuriant, are expoſed to ſhaking winds, and late in coming to maturity. Paſſing the ſummits of theſe hills, the pariſh ſlopes into a number of fine farms, little inferior in quality to thoſe on the eaſt ſide, though the climate is not quite ſo warm. After paſſing a ſort of valley, where there are a few houſes, the pariſh riſes through a track of arable lands, of a cold bottom, into ſheep walks and moors, on the borders of Kirkpatrick-Durham, &c. This deſcription comprehends only that part of the pariſh lying E. of the old water of Cluden, and S. of the burn of Cornlee: for to the N. and W. of that winding ſtream, there riſes a mountain called the Biſhop's Foreſt, *apparently* the higheſt, perhaps of any at the ſame nearneſs to Dumfries, yet of no very ſteep or difficult aſcent in moſt places, owing to a very extended and irregular baſe, around which are planted ſeveral large and diſtinct farms and properties. This hill is ſkirted along the river Cairn to the N. with woods, for 2 miles, which reach up the hill in many parts, for more than half a mile. Some of the farms extend to the ſummit, and others only a part of the way. The hill has a heathy appearance at a diſtance, with ſome rocks and moorſtones riſing to the view at the ſame time, while the ſheep find ſome green and wholeſome paſture here and there interſperſed.—The inhabitants

habitants in general are healthy; nor has any thing like epidemical fevers taken place among them theſe 16 years paſt. Inoculation has taken place in part here. The miniſter while in another charge, inoculated 5 children of his own, at two different times, with his own hand. Upon inoculating 3 at firſt, the people ſeemed to be ſhocked and offended; but when he came to have other two fit ſubjects, he warned his neighbours of his intention to inoculate theſe alſo. The example was followed immediately then, by the inoculation of 30 children in the pariſh, by the hands of a common blood-letter from another pariſh, who had performed at home. They all did well.

Agriculture, &c.—Farms here are from 30 to 400 acres, and the rent of the beſt lands is between 15 s. and L. 1; very little, as yet, amounting to L. 1. The rents leſſen as the pariſh approaches to moorlands. There are ſeveral excellent farmers in the pariſh, who know well how to adapt the culture to the ſoil. No great quantity of wheat is ſown, as the land in general is not ſo ſtrong as to promiſe luxuriant crops; and turnips are moſtly given up, though the ſoil is well fitted to produce them. Great quantities of potatoes are now planted in the country all round Dumfries. The whole operations are performed by the plough. They afford, at leaſt, one meal in the day, for ¾ths of the year, to the moſt of families. Part are ſent to market, and ſome, even at this diſtance, are ſent to ſloops, and have ſold from 1s. to 2s. the 100 weight. It is believed, (by the writer at leaſt,) that were no more potatoes raiſed than what were 40 years ago, there would be a ſcarcity of proviſion in moſt years, from the increaſe of population; ſuch a vaſt proportion of food does an acre of land planted with potatoes produce, beyond what the ſame could afford when ſown with

with any grain whatever. Two crops of oats are commonly taken from the lands at firſt, the third is potatoes or peas, and the fourth barley, ſown down with rye-graſs and clover, and to enlarge the barley field, the farmers of late, have fallen upon a method of laying dung upon the oats ſtubble, after harveſt, and ploughing it down immediately; which, by a croſs ploughing in the ſpring, and the ſeed furrow at laſt, affords even better crops than the potato land itſelf. This is counted an improvement, as barley is a principal fund for paying rents, which is always ſaleable in proportion to the prices that are going at Whitehaven and Liverpool, which have afforded here for ſeveral years paſt, from 2s. to 3s. the Wincheſter buſhel. A much greater quantity of oats is produced alſo in the pariſh than is conſumed in it; partly ſold in the market of Dumfries, but chiefly made into meal, and ſhipped for Greenock and other places. It is eaſy to ſee that the prices will be different in different ſeaſons; being from 1s. 6d. to 2s. the ſtone, of 17½ lbs. according to the demand from other places. This article of oat-meal, the general food of the country, cannot be ſaid to have riſen in proportion to proviſions of other kinds; the prices of which are double what they were 40 years ago.—The number of horſes may be about 174, of black cattle 1416, and of ſheep 3080. The cattle are of a middle ſize, and like other Galloways, are known to be excellent feeders; but as the beſt of the land is all arable, the farmers commonly ſell their bullocks before they are old enough to feed into beef. Of the ſheep, 120 may be of the Mug or Bakewell kind, and only thrive well upon the good land, the ewes generally producing two lambs each, which are ſold to the butchers in July, for 8s. or 9s. a-piece. The wool of theſe ſheep brings about 14s. or 15s. the ſtone, of 24 lb. while that of the moor ſheep is coarſe, and ſells at about 8s.

In

In the courſe of the miniſter's incumbency, upon a ſort of groſs recollection, there have been ſold by different proprietors, about L. 1600 worth of woods; conſiſting of oak, aſh, alder, birch, and hazle. The ſmaller kind was manufactured into charcoal, and ſent to the furnaces at Whitehaven; the larger kind was ſent for ſhip-timber to different ports, and a great part was bought by tradeſmen, and others round the country.—There are 7 marl-pits in the pariſh, ſome of which are moſtly exhauſted. It is ſaid, that this manure was diſcovered and uſed in a farm here, about 50 or 60 years ago, before it was uſed in any other part, at leaſt in the ſouth of Scotland. Luxuriant crops were raiſed by it at firſt, and the people continued to plough, till the ground was reduced to a *caput mortuum*. They now know well how to manage it, by taking fewer crops, and laying the laſt down with dung and graſs-ſeeds, though it is found that the frequent repetition of marl, eſpecially upon thin land, does little good, or rather is hurtful, by looſening the ſoil ſo much, that the corn-plants are thrown out at a certain time. They who have no marl, bring lime to their lands from Cloſeburn or Barjarg, 2 farms at the diſtance of 8 or 10 miles, or from the harbour below Dumfries, at the diſtance of 7 or 8 miles. At leaſt every farmer now, almoſt, brings ſome lime, leſs or more, to his poſſeſſion.—The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 4415:19:8 Scots money, and the real rent at preſent is about L. 2770 Sterling. No ſervices are paid by the tenants in general.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—Stipend and glebe are not worth above L. 80 a-year. The walls of the church have been built time out of mind, and are ſtill firm and ſtrong. Mr Ferguſon of Craigdarroch and Mr Oſwald of Auchincruive are vice-patrons.—The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is about

L. 7. As there are no villages in the pariſh, the ſcholars are not numerous, ſeldom 30, even in winter; and the maſter is obliged to teach 2 years in a houſe near the church, and alternately other 2 years 3 miles up the pariſh. The quarter wages are from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. People at a diſtance from either ſchool hire a lad for themſelves, who goes from one family to another, along with his ſcholars, by turns.—The poor have been from 14 to 18. The annual collections may be about L. 14. There is L. 6, 10 s. ariſing from intereſt of lent money, and they have L. 2, 10 s. of land-rent. None beg, it is believed, nor need beg out of the pariſh. To afford relief for the deficiency of crop 1782, a liberal contribution was made for the poor. In fact, there was no ſcarcity of proviſion in the pariſh, though dear, as the beſt part ripens early, and though the corns were covered with ſnow for ſome days in ſome of the higheſt parts of the moor farms. Among the worſt things in the police of the country, is the permiſſion of vagrants and ſturdy beggars from all parts, eſpecially from the large village called the Bridgend of Dumfries, which has no magiſtrate. That village is a receptacle of people of that ſort from the three kingdoms. Theſe, from pretence of fiſhing or trafficking or begging, ſpy out what is for their purpoſe in the day-time, and in the night return, and at times commit conſiderable depredations.

Population.—At the time of Dr Webſter's report, the numbers were 895. Upon an enumeration in 1778, there were found 585 examinable perſons. All the alteration, in a general view of the pariſh ſince that time, may amount to 610. There are 25 heritors, 7 or 8 of whom reſide. Of Diſſenters there are 9 Cameronians and 10 Seceders.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—No inhabitant of the pariſh has been impriſoned for crimes during the incumbency of the preſent miniſter, which has continued more than 16 years. The people, as to individuals, rather than numbers, are greatly changed in that period, on account of old tenants going out, and new ones coming in. They are ſober and induſtrious. There is not ſo much as an ale-houſe now in the whole pariſh. The licences are ſo high, that no public-houſe in a country place can afford to pay them; and the duty upon malt is alſoſo high, and ſo rigorouſly exacted, that the people grudge to pay it. This has retrenched the comforts of life to ſeveral families; for a little ale was very neceſſary for a while in winter, when the cows, moſtly in calf, and fed upon ſtraw, yield but little or no milk. One improvement, however, has been fallen upon lately in the means of living by handicraftſmen, and ſuch as rent no land. When the corns are got in, they buy a pig, which they ring, and get liberty from their landlords for it to run about. This they feed upon offals and potatoes, which they get planted ſomewhere for work in harveſt, and the animal becomes a good morſel at the end of March, and affords a mouthful now and then through the ſummer. The article of fuel is very ſcarce and expenſive, eſpecially for ſeveral miles in the lower part of the pariſh, where there are no peats. And coals are brought 24 miles from Sanquhar; or from ſome harbour, perhaps 2 miles below Dumfries, at a dear rate, owing to the high duty that is upon that article, when water-born.—A cuſtom prevails all over the country, of carrying the dead for interment to a diſtant church-yard, if the anceſtors of the deceaſed were buried there. In fact, there are more funerals here from other pariſhes than from the pariſh itſelf, and the people here follow the ſame cuſtom, if they have burying-places elſewhere.—A farm on the eaſt

ſide

ſide of the hills firſt mentioned, commanding a full view of Dumfries, and even beyond it towards Annandale, is called Ingleſton.—The tradition is, that it was ſo called from the beacons or fires that were kindled there, or on the hill belonging to it, in times of hoſtility with the Engliſh or borderers, to give warning to other parts of the country, of the approach of an enemy. For the word Ingle (perhaps from the Latin Ignis) to this day, is very often uſed for a fire by the common people all over this country.—Game of moſt kinds is as plenty here as in any of the neighbouring pariſhes. Even the beautiful black cock, as well as the grouſe, is to be met with on the high grounds. Foxes bring forth in holes upon the biſhop's foreſt formerly mentioned. When they begin to kill ſheep any where in the pariſh, the huntſman, who is paid by the county, is ſent for, and he ſeldom fails to unkennel a fox on that hill, or in the woods around it. At the ſame time, it is obſerved, that Reynard does leſs injury to the ſheep in this neighbourhood, than he is known to do in many other parts of the Stewartry; owing perhaps to the variety of game he catches himſelf, and to the wild berries which he finds in the woods for his ſupport.—Over a water which falls into the river Cairn, is an excellent ſtone bridge of one arch. It is founded upon two perpendicular rocks, and forms a moſt romantic ſcene. As it is lower than the ground leading to it on each end, you are ſurpriſed by the ſight of it almoſt before you are aware. It is called the *Routing* bridge, evidently from the noiſe made by the water immediately above it. Standing upon the bridge, and looking up the ſtream, you ſee very little of its courſe, till it begins, above the level of the ſpectator's eye, to tumble in broken water, among large unequal rocks, for about 8 or 10 yards in a rapid deſcent, and falls in a cataract of about 10 or 12 feet deep, ſo near the bridge,

bridge, that the traveller feels ſomething like dew or ſpray, as he paſſes, when the water is ſwelled and the wind in the ſouth. Upon turning to the parapet on the nether ſide and looking over, you have a ſudden contraſt, in ſeeing the water ſmooth in a clear day, and the trouts ſporting and feeding in a pool below, which is partly overhung by oaks on each ſide, while the rocks and bridge are, in ſome places, matted with woodbine. To this pictureſque ſcene, people that have time to ride for health or amuſement, frequently come from Dumfries or elſewhere, as the road is good, and the object not much above 5 miles diſtant from that town.

NUM-

NUMBER LXIX.

PARISH OF LARGO,

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. Mr SPENCE OLIPHANT.

Situation, Soil, Air, &c.

THIS parish is situated in the presbytery of St Andrew's, and Synod of Fife; bounded on the W. by the parish of Scoonie, on the N. by Ceres, on the E. by Newburn, and on the S. by Largo Bay. It is of an irregular figure, extending from S. W. to N. E. nearly 6 miles. Its breadth is very unequal. The area of the whole contains 5469 acres. To the traveller, the south part of this parish must afford a picturesque and delightful scene of elegant country-seats, skirted with well laid out and thriving plantations, populous villages, surrounded with fertile fields, hill and dale, wood and water. The soil on the W. towards the sea, is light, bordered with link ground; the northern parts in general are of a thin black mould, on a wet bottom; in the southern, of a black loam, partly on a dry, and partly on a wet bottom, interspersed with fields of light land. Rich breaking clay is peculiar to the S. E. part of the parish, and there are some tracks in different directions, to the westward of the hill, consisting of clays

of

of a more obdurate nature, and on a wet bottom.—From our vicinity to the German Ocean, we are frequently viſited with cold and damp winds from the E. accompanied ſometimes with much rain. During the ſpring and ſummer months, when the ſun has had influence to rarify the air in the firſt part of the day, we may look for a very cooling ſea-breeze by three in the afternoon. But this is common upon all the coaſt. We are indeed more ſheltered from its influence, than many of our neighbours, from our local ſituation, and the plantations that ſurround. To the above circumſtances, our prevailing diſeaſes may be attributed; for, from the effect of cold and wet, coughs are very general, rheumatiſm and other inflammatory complaints are not unfrequent. Epidemic diſorders ſometimes appear, of which the nervous fever prevails chiefly among thoſe who are much expoſed in the ſpring and autumn, and who live at the ſame time upon a low and ſpare diet. Few children are now cut off by the ſmall pox, as inoculation is generally introduced with remarkable ſucceſs. During 20 years practice, our ſurgeon has not loſt one patient.

Agriculture, &c.—In improvements, it may be juſtly ſaid that this pariſh has led the way to all the neighbourhood. An open field is ſcarcely to be met with. All is incloſed, either with ſtone, or with ditch and hedge. Draining has not been neglected. Not only the ſpouts in the wet bottomed land have diſappeared, but even the uſeleſs marſh and the deceitful bog, by draining, paring, and burning, have been turned into fruitful fields. The implements of huſbandry are much improved. A light well contrived plough is introduced. The brake and roller are in common uſe. The diminution of the expence of culture is no ſmall improvement. In place of 6 cattle and 2 horſes, that ſeemed to be yoked for ſhow, 20 or 30 years ago,

ago, and theſe driven by a ſtout lad or 2 boys, 2 horſes, reined by the ploughman, now perform the work to much better purpoſe, and with greater ſpeed. Hand and horſe hoeing are practiſed. When the crop is gathered, it is preſerved in the barn-yard from vermin, by being placed upon pillars of ſtone, 2 feet high. Machines for threſhing have been introduced, but do not come up to expectation; from their very complex conſtruction, they are apt to go wrong; the horſes have a dead draught, and are made giddy by the circular motion. Wherever they can be erected upon a fall of water, all the purpoſes deſired will be anſwered.—In the northern parts of the pariſh, there are conſiderable plantations of fir. Places covered with thorns, briars, and furze, 30 years ago, are now filled with all kinds of foreſt-trees, the annual thinning of which already produces a conſiderable ſum. In 30 or 40 years, wood of different kinds will be a moſt profitable production.—The value of land is in a high proportion increaſed. What brought from 16 s. to L. 1 the acre, 20 years ago, now lets at L. 2 and L. 2, 10 s. and feus at L. 4 Sterling. —Except on the north ſkirts of the pariſh, where bear, oats, flax, and a few wretched potatoes, are the chief productions, every perſon poſſeſſing from 500, down to 1 acre of land, raiſes wheat almoſt as good as the beſt in Lothian. Thoſe only who poſſeſs farms can afford to fallow for their wheat; but even theſe, as well as the ſmalleſt tenants, raiſe the greateſt proportion of their wheat after clover, beans, and potatoes. Upon the beſt ſoil, barley is conſidered a profitable crop, and oats the leaſt advantageous, unleſs after paſture. Turnips and cabbage are raiſed with ſucceſs, for the cattles winter-proviſion. The carrot, the Swediſh turnip, and root of ſcarcity, have not anſwered expectation. The Swediſh turnip, it is ſuppoſed, will become very uſeful, when, by experiment, the proper mode of

of cultivating it ſhall be aſcertained, and generally underſtood.—Cattle are reared in conſiderable numbers; much attention is paid to the breed. The conſequence of which is well known, as our cattle have been diſtinguiſhed for beauty and ſize even in the London market. Horſes are bred, both for draught and ſaddle. Sheep are fed, not produced here. Every family has ſwine.—In our quarries are found hard and freeſtone. Limeſtone is wrought in 2 different places. There is an extenſive field of marl; and coal may be wrought to advantage. On the eſtate of Lundin, the coal has been cropped; but by erecting an engine near to the ſea, a deep ſeam, which ſtretches over upon the eſtate of Largo, would be opened. This would amply ſupply the neighbourhood, and afford beſides a conſiderable exportation.

Sea-coaſt, Fiſheries, &c.—The ſouth boundary of this pariſh is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of ſea-coaſt. Largo Bay extends from Kingcraig Point to that of the Methul, making a diameter of near 7 miles in length, and marked by a ridge of ſand. The included bay forms a ſemicircle of about 10 miles ſea-coaſt. The above ridge is called by fiſhermen the Dike. Of this there is a tradition, although probably not well founded, among the oldeſt inhabitants of Largo, that there was formerly a wall or mound running from Kingcraig Point to that of the Methul, containing within it a vaſt foreſt, called the Wood of Forth.—About 10 years ago, fiſh abounded on this coaſt, particularly haddock, of a very delicate kind. But ſince that period, fiſh of every kind have become ſcarce, inſomuch that there is not a haddock in the bay. All that remain, are a few ſmall cod, podlies, and flounders. The fiſhermen have alſo diſappeared, who, 20 years ago, conſtituted the chief part of the inhabitants of Largo and Drumochy. At preſent there

is not a fiſherman in Largo, and only 1 in Drumochy, who fiſhes in ſummer, and catches rabbits in winter.—The harbour of Largo is formed by the influx of the water Keil. There is a ſtone key, where veſſels of 200 ton may receive or diſcharge their cargoes; but at no great expence it might be made to admit of ſhips of greater burden. The whole bay forms a ſafe road-ſtead for ſhips of every deſcription, being ſheltered from all winds, except the S. and S. W.; and were it better known, might be a mean of preſerving many lives, particularly when ſhips are forced into the Forth by ſtorms from the N. E.

Mountains.—There is but 1 large hill, well known by the name of Largo Law. It is of a conical form, and riſes about 800 feet above the level of the ſea. Perhaps the name Law was given to this and many other hills of ſimilar form, from the flame that did, or was ſuppoſed to have iſſued from their tops. The Swedes call flame, 'loa;' and the Danes, 'lue;' which reſemble in ſound our Scotch word 'low;' a flame. In ſupport of this conjecture, there are, in the poſſeſſion of Mr James Calderwood-Durham of Largo, ſeveral proclamations from the Privy-council of Scotland, ordering fires to be kindled on Largo Law, and that of North Berwick, as ſignals for the appearance of any ſhips of the enemy.—Beſides this, there are 2 other Laws. But it is evident that theſe have been artificial. When the cairn was removed from one of theſe, a few years ago, a ſtone coffin was found at the bottom. From the poſition of the bones, it appeared that the perſon had been buried in a ſingular manner. The legs and arms had been carefully ſevered from the trunk, and laid diagonally acroſs it.

Manufactures.

Manufactures and Trade.—The principal manufacture is weaving. No woollen cloth indeed is wrought, but for a partial ſupply to the lower ranks of people. Linen and checks are the great articles. Almoſt every weaver, and a good number of others, have their bleaching ground, where they prepare linen, from the value of 9 d. to 4 s. the yard. Thoſe who can afford to purchaſe yarn, work check and green linen, which they ſell in Dyſart, Kirkaldy, Cupar, and Dundee. Others, of leſs ſtock, are employed in theſe branches by manufacturers in the above towns. The greateſt proportion of flax is imported; much of it is dreſſed and ſpun in the pariſh. A woman commonly ſpins 2 hanks a-day, and ſhe is paid from 1 s. to 1 s. 2 d. the ſpindle.—The farmers deal conſiderably in cattle, which go to the ſhambles in the ſurrounding country, and not a few to Edinburgh; the remainder are bought for the moſt part by Engliſh drovers. Wheat, barley, oats, beans, and ſometimes potatoes, are ſhipped for Leith and the Weſt country; ſalt, for Dundee and Perth. Wood and iron are imported from Norway. There are 3 corn-mills, having thirlage; 2 barley, and 3 lint mills; 2 ſalt-pans, ſupplied with coals from the diſtance of 4 miles.

Population.—At the time of Dr Webſter's report, the numbers were 1396. At preſent (1791) 1913.

Under 5 years of age, -	212
Under 10 years, - -	226
Under 20, - - -	361
Under 30, - - -	272
Under 40, - - -	245
Under 50, - - -	177
Under 60, - . -	226
Under 70, - - -	136

Under

Under 80, - - -	49
Under 90, - - -	7
Under 100, - - -	2
In the year 1754, the number of people was about - - -	1400

Marriages, Baptiſms, and Burials, for the laſt ten years.

Years.	*Marriages.*	*Baptiſms.*	*Burials.*
1781	13	29	41
1782	24	48	42
1783	16	42	56
1784	23	43	33
1785	17	39	35
1786	17	48	35
1787	16	33	15
1788	14	45	48
1789	16	26	23
1790	12	42	24
	168	395	352
Yearly average,	17	39	35

Some deduction ought to be made from the average of burials, on account of an hoſpital in the pariſh for old men, amounting to 14 in number, who are ſeldom admitted under 60 years. There are commonly 2 vacancies every year; ſometimes 3, 4, and 5.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The ſtipend conſiſts of 6 chalders of victual, L. 36 : 6 : 4, L. 20 Scots for foggage, 5 acres of glebe, manſe and garden. The manſe was rebuilt 20 years ago, and is among the beſt in the preſbytery. Since the demiſſion of Mr Ferrier, who, in conjunction with a Mr Smith, miniſter at Newburn, formed a ſect of Independents,

a ſpirit of ſchiſm has prevailed in this and all the adjacent pariſhes. Clergy abound here. There being 1 of the Eſtabliſhment, 1 of the Relief, 1 of the Independents, and 2 of the Anabaptiſts. The number of ſouls belonging to the Eſtabliſhment is 1211; belonging to Separatiſts, including 3 of the Epiſcopal perſuaſion, 702. There are 9 heritors. —The funds for the public ſchool amount to about L. 30 a-year. A man of ability and application may look to this place as an object, as he would have a numerous ſchool from the pariſh, and the ſafe and healthy ſituation of the place would attract boarders from all quarters.—At an average, the number of regular poor is 25, each of whom receives from 2 s. to 4 s. and 5 s. a-month. The funds amount to from L. 40 to L. 50 a-year, ariſing from money at intereſt, collections at the church-door, and mortcloths. From this ſtate of the poor, and their proviſion, it may be juſtly obſerved, that the heritors and tenants, upon whom the legal ſupport of the poor depends, ſave annually a conſiderable ſum, on account of the management being veſted in the kirk-ſeſſion. Were the heritors to appoint a factor or treaſurer for ſupplying the poor, were the poor to know that they are entitled to a legal ſupport, they would ſoon diſcover either their real or fictitious wants, and boldly demand a ſupply; whereas the preſent mode of ſupporting them is attended with an oppoſite effect. By daily ſeeing and hearing of collections for the poor, the needy will ſuffer much, and work hard, before they can think of being claſſed among the number; and ſhould this ſpirit be at laſt vanquiſhed, either by diſtreſs or poverty, their children and friends will exert their utmoſt, to preſerve their needy relation from what they think a reproach. If any at laſt become beggars, their monthly allowance is immediately withdrawn, with a view to induce them to return to ſome uſefulneſs in ſociety.

Wages,

Wages, Living, &c.—Working by contract is now much practiſed, the gain ariſing from which muſt be according to the bargain they make, and the induſtry with which they purſue their work. The wages of common labourers and hired ſervants can be eaſily aſcertained, the general run being from 9d. to 1s. a-day; hired ſervants L. 13 a-year. This is to be underſtood of the man's earnings; and if a wife and children be concerned, it is but rare, that any addition can be ſtated to his income. Female ſervants have from L. 2 to L. 4, excluſive of their board, &c. Labourers and hired ſervants who have families, from the above account, cannot live ſumptuouſly. Except at a birth or marriage, or ſome other feſtival, they do not in general taſte butcher-meat. Meagre broth, potatoes, cheeſe, butter in ſmall quantities, and a preparation of meal in different forms, make up their conſtant fare. All things conſidered, it is aſtoniſhing to ſee man, wife and children, in their Sunday's clothes; all are clean and neat, with faces expreſſive of contentment.—With reſpect to the general rank of people, their mode of living is undoubtedly improved, both as to lodging and diet.—Notwithſtanding the jarring opinions in matters of religion, which may ſometimes occaſion a diſtant and reſerved behaviour, the people in general have a kind and obliging turn. They are honeſt, ſober and induſtrious; more forward to ſympathiſe with their neighbour in diſtreſs, than to rejoice with him in his proſperity. Tenacious of the peculiar doctrines of Chriſtianity, they do not pervert them to encourage licentiouſneſs, being convinced, that purity of heart and life cannot be ſeparated from the exalted hope which the goſpel inſpires.

Hoſpital.—In 1659, an hoſpital for old men of the name of Wood was founded by a Mr John Wood, who was a connection

connection of the famous Sir Andrew Wood of Largo. As hoſpitallers, there are 12 old men of the above name, who, with their wives (if they have any) are accommodated with a room and cloſet, with an annuity of L. 100 Scots. There is a large garden, which ſupplies them with vegetables of all kinds. There is alſo a porter, who, among other parts of his office, calls them to morning and evening prayers, which are given by a chaplain appointed for that purpoſe. The ſurgeon in the pariſh receives ſo much a-year for his attendance and advice. The funds ariſe from money at intereſt, and an excellent farm adjacent to the hoſpital. The gentlemen who poſſeſs the eſtates of Largo, Lundin, Wemyſs and Balfour, with the miniſter of Largo, are patrons. Theſe meet on the firſt Tueſday of September, in the hall of the hoſpital, to examine the accounts of their factor, to fill up vacancies, &c. A dinner is allowed by the founder. Of this dinner we lately found an old bill of fare, which ſhewed the taſte of former times. There was charged for wine 3 s. and ale 10 s. The charge now is entirely reverſed.

Eminent and Notable Men.—1. The faithful and brave Sir Andrew Wood, who flouriſhed in the reigns of James III. and IV. of Scotland, was a native of this pariſh. Under James III. he poſſeſſed the barony of Largo in tack. But James IV. inveſted him in the property of it, on account of two ſignal victories he had obtained at ſea, over the Engliſh, about the beginning of his reign. It appears that Sir Andrew, like Commodore Trunnion, brought on ſhore his nautical ideas and manners. From his houſe, down almoſt as far as the church, he formed a canal, upon which he uſed to ſail in his barge to the church every Sunday in great ſtate.—2. After Sir Andrew Wood, the barony of Largo came into the poſſeſſion of the family of Durham,

ham, to which the celebrated Mr James Durham belonged, being brother to Sir Alexander Durham of Largo. This gentleman was diſtinguiſhed both as a ſoldier and divine, being firſt a captain of dragoons, and then miniſter of the High Church of Glaſgow. He was ſolicited to become profeſſor of divinity in the college there; but being eminently diſtinguiſhed among his brethren, he was by them appointed to the honourable office of chaplain at court. While at Glaſgow, he had an opportunity of preaching before Oliver Cromwell, when he took occaſion to ſpeak with freedom of the injuſtice of Oliver's invaſion. Being afterwards ſeverely challenged by the Uſurper, he calmly anſwered, that he thought it incumbent upon him to ſpeak his mind freely upon that ſubject, eſpecially as he had an opportunity of doing it in his own hearing.—3. Alexander Selkirk, who was rendered famous by Monſ. de Foe, under the name of Robinſon Cruſoe. His hiſtory, diveſted of fable, is as follows: He was born in Largo in 1676. Having gone to ſea in his youth, and in the year 1703, being ſailing maſter of the ſhip Cinque Ports, Captain Stradling, bound for the South Seas, he was put on ſhore, on the iſland of Juan Fernandez, as a puniſhment for mutiny. In that ſolitude he remained 4 years and 4 months, from which he was at laſt relieved, and brought to England by Captain Woods Rogers. He had with him in the iſland his clothes and bedding, with a firelock, ſome powder, bullets and tobacco, a hatchet, knife, kettle, his mathematical inſtruments and Bible. He built 2 huts of Piemento trees, and covered them with long graſs, and, in a ſhort time, lined them with ſkins of goats, which he killed with his muſket, ſo long as his powder laſted, (which at firſt was but a pound); when that was ſpent, he caught them by ſpeed of foot. Having learned to produce fire, by rubbing two pieces of wood together, he dreſſed his victuals in one

of

of his huts, and ſlept in the other, which was at ſome diſtance from his kitchen. A multitude of rats often diſturbed his repoſe, by gnawing his feet, and other parts of his body, which induced him to feed a number of cats for his protection. In a ſhort time, theſe became ſo tame, that they would lie about him in hundreds, and ſoon delivered him from the rats, his enemies. Upon his return, he declared to his friends, that nothing gave him ſo much uneaſineſs, as the thoughts, that when he died, his body would be devoured by thoſe very cats he had with ſo much care tamed and fed. To divert his mind from ſuch melancholy thoughts, he would ſometimes dance and ſing among his kids and goats, at other times retire to his devotion. His clothes and ſhoes were ſoon worn, by running through the woods. In the want of ſhoes he found little inconvenience, as the ſoles of his feet became ſo hard, that he could run every where without difficulty. As for clothes, he made for himſelf a coat and cap of goats ſkins, ſewed with little thongs of the ſame, cut into proper form with his knife. His only needle was a nail. When his knife was worn to the back, he made others as well as he could, of ſome iron hoops that had been left on ſhore, by beating them thin, and grinding them on ſtones. By his long ſecluſion from intercourſe with men, he had ſo far forgot the uſe of ſpeech, that the people on board Captain Rogers's ſhip could ſcarce underſtand him, for he ſeemed to ſpeak his words by halves. The cheſt and muſket which Selkirk had with him on the iſland, are now in the poſſeſſion of his grandnephew, John Selkirk, weaver in Largo.

Antiquities.—On the bank of the water Keil, are the ruins of the ancient caſtle of Balcruvie, a place once of conſiderable ſtrength, occupied of old by the family of Craw-

ford. There is a ſquare tower pretty entire. Of the old houſe of Largo, one round tower remains. A little ſouthwards, in a large park, there is now an elegant modern houſe, commanding one of the fineſt and moſt extenſive proſpects in Scotland. About a mile to the weſtward, is the ancient tower of Lundin, which now conſtitutes a part of a modern building, with a Gothic front.—Near to this, in the middle of a plain, are 3 remarkable ſtones, ſtanding upright in the ground, each meaſuring 6 yards above, and as much it is ſuppoſed below the ground. There are alſo fragments of a fourth, which ſeems to have been of equal magnitude with the other three. There is no inſcription, nor the leaſt veſtige of any character to be found upon them. But the tradition is, that they are the grave-ſtones of ſome Daniſh chiefs, who fell in battle with the Scots near this place.

NUM-

NUMBER LXX.

PARISH of TOWIE,

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER MEARNS.

Name, Situation, Air, &c.

THIS pariſh formerly was called Kilbartha; its name now is Towie-Kinbattoch, which is probably Gaelic, and has been given to it on account of its northern expoſure. It is ſituated in the preſbytery of Alford, and Synod of Aberdeen. Its length is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ Engliſh miles, and its breadth about 2. It is bounded by Strathdon, and Glenbucket on the W. by Cabrach on the N. by Kildrummy and Cuſhny on the E. and by Tarland and Migvy on the S. The general appearance of the country is hilly, but not rocky. The hills for the moſt part are covered with heath. The only river that runs through this pariſh is the Don. It is well ſtored with trout, and in rainy ſummers a few ſalmon get up. By the river-ſide, the ſoil, though not deep, is very fertile, and, comparatively ſpeaking, early. The air is dry and healthy. The moſt prevalent diſtemper is the gravel, with which this and the neighbouring pariſhes are afflicted to a very remarkable degree. If it be true,

true, that this diſeaſe is hereditary, which is probable, this may in a great degree account for it, as the men ſeldom go for their wives beyond the bounds of their own or the neighbouring pariſh. There are ſome mineral waters here, which, if drunk for any conſiderable time, would probably give ſome relief from this dreadful complaint. But in this corner, as well as in many beſides, the people have but too great a propenſity to believe, that the diſeaſes of their body, as well as thoſe of their mind, are to be cured at once, and without that patient continuance which experience ſo uniformly declares to be neceſſary.

Population, &c.—The pariſh ſeems to have been more populous formerly than at preſent. According to Dr Webſter's returns, the numbers were 656. There are now about 550 inhabitants, of whom 282 are males, 268 females. The regiſter of births and burials has begun of late only to be kept regularly. For the laſt 6 years, the annual average of births is 12; of deaths is nearly 6. During the ſame ſpace of time, the annual average of marriages is 5. There is reaſon to believe, that if the practice of inoculating for the ſmall-pox prevailed throughout the different pariſhes, it would be very favourable to population. The miniſter, encouraged by the generoſity of one of the heritors who reſides in the neighbourhood, though not within the bounds of the pariſh, recommended from the pulpit, a general inoculation throughout the pariſh, and as an encouragement to the poorer ſort, added, that no fees to the ſurgeon would be expected from them who could not afford the expenſe. In conſequence of which, all the children, and young people, ſome of them 20 years of age and upwards, who had not formerly had the ſmall pox, were inoculated at once, excepting ſuch as were prevented by cutaneous eruptions, and

other

other circumſtances that were thought unfriendly to inoculation; and of the whole, there was not one who was not eaſy under the diſeaſe, and had not a good recovery. One girl, indeed, after all hazard from the ſmall-pox was over, and her recovery in a manner complete, happened to overheat herſelf in running with ſome of her companions, which brought on a fever that was the occaſion of her death.—The pariſhioners here conſiſt, in general, of farmers and their families. There is only one diſſenter from the Eſtabliſhed Church. There are very few mechanics; the farmers here, as is generally the caſe at ſuch a diſtance from towns, uniting in their perſon, along with their own profeſſion, that of maſon, carpenter, and ſhoemaker, are, of courſe, remarkable for a degree of ingenuity and knowledge, to which the common people near the ſea-coaſt, and where the diviſion of labour is eſtabliſhed, are ſtrangers. The women, when within doors, are employed in ſpinning coarſe linen-yarn to Aberdeen manufacturers, and make from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. a-week. The numbers in this pariſh, for 10 years paſt, have rather been decreaſing, owing, in a great degree, to the ſcarcity of fuel. On ſeveral farms, that were formerly divided among 3 families, there reſides at preſent only 1. The proportion between the annual births and the whole population, is nearly as 1 to 46; between the annual marriages and the whole population, is as 1 to 110; between the annual deaths and the whole population, is nearly as 1 to 92. The number of married men, including widowers, is 87; and of bachelors, reckoning from 20 years of age, 79. Each marriage, at an average, produces 4 or 5 children.

Agriculture.—No wheat is raiſed in the pariſh, and but few turnips or cabbages. The farmers, however, begin to be ſenſible of the value of green crops, and if they get proper

per encouragement, would pay more attention to them now than what they have formerly done. The pariſh ſupplies itſelf with proviſions. It always ſpares a conſiderable quantity of meal and ſome bear, part of which is ſold to the people that live near the head of the rivers Dee and Don, and the reſt carried to Aberdeen. To that market, too, are annually ſent a good many fat ſheep. The dealers in black cattle carry, every year, from this and the neighbouring pariſhes, to the markets in the ſouth of Scotland, a conſiderable number of cattle and cows, where they are brought up for Engliſh paſture and Engliſh markets. A lint-mill has been lately erected in this pariſh; and the farmers begin to raiſe ſome flax, but chiefly as yet for their own uſe. There is a very inconſiderable number of acres in ſown or artificial graſs. Of hill-paſture, there is a great deal, to which the arable ground bears a ſmall proportion. Oats are generally ſown from the middle of March to the middle of April; and when the barley ground is clean, the ſooner it is ſown ſo much the better. The harveſt generally begins about the firſt of September. In 1782, though the crop was much hurt, there was within the pariſh as much wholeſome ſeed, as would ſerve itſelf, and give ſome aid to their neighbours; and though the meal was leſs in quantity, and a conſiderable part of it much worſe in quality than uſual, the farmers were ſtill able to ſpare as much as helped to pay their rents. A good deal of pains was taken, though without much ſucceſs, to fix, if poſſible, on ſome deciſive marks by which the good ſeed might be diſtinguiſhed from ſuch as was hurt by froſt. Experience taught, that no ſtreſs at all was to be laid on the appearance of the grain in its natural ſtate. The cleareſt and beſt looking part of it, when ſowed, often produced the worſt crop. The grain too, that yielded, when milled, the greateſt quantity of meal was far from having

ving the beſt vegetative powers. Neither did it follow, becauſe the grain ſprung readily when put into a pot of earth, that therefore it might be depended on for good ſeed. It was often found to ſpring readily through the ground, without having ſtrength enough to bring the plant to maturity. Theſe remarks are confined to oats. As to bear or bigg, when it is hurt by froſt, it is always believed to have an external appearance of being damaged. The upper end of the grain is blackened, which is owing, perhaps, to the huſk's being more tender and more ſuſceptible of impreſſion than oats. By attending to this diverſity in the huſk of bear and oats, the incumbent was led to think, that though the hardneſs of the latter prevented any external appearance in its natural ſtate, when the grain was injured by froſt, yet when ſtripped of the huſk, this appearance might be obſerved. Accordingly, after a narrow inſpection of different ſpecimens of oats intended for ſeed, after they were thus ſtripped, by being put through the mill, and attending to the crops they produced, he was inclined to believe that the appearance of the grain in that ſtate, its being plump and clear, free of ſhrivelling and darkneſs of colour, eſpecially at the extremities, is the beſt mark by which ſound ſeed-oats may be diſtinguiſhed from ſuch as are hurt by the froſt.—A great proportion of ground lies waſte. The land-rent is about L. 1000 Sterling. The average rent of farms is L. 20 Sterling; and the ſize is ſuch as to give employment for 8 ſmall oxen, 3 or 4 very ſmall horſes, the tenant, a man and a boy.

Prices and Wages.—There is no public market within the pariſh for beef, mutton or poultry. Cheeſe ſells at 5 s. the ſtone. Butter at 10 s. 6 d. the ſtone being 28 lb. Engliſh. The price of hens and ducks is generally 6 d. a-

piece.

piece. That of eggs 1½d a-dozen. The boll of barley ſells at an average for 13 s. and meal at 11s. A day-labourer's wages are 6 d. with his victuals. A ploughman, getting his victuals in the houſe, has L. 5 a-year, and a woman ſervant L. 2, 10 s.

Stipend, Poor, &c.—The value of the living, including the glebe, which is ſcarcely 4 acres, amounts to L. 72 Sterling. Alexander Leith of Freefield, Eſq; principal heritor, is patron. The number of heritors is 4, none of whom reſide. The church was repaired in 1744, and the manſe in 1778.—The number of poor in the pariſh receiving alms is 15. The annual contribution for their relief amounts to about L. 5, which, with L. 4, 10 s. the intereſt of L. 100 formerly ſaved, make the whole of the fund for the poor.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The ſcarcity of fuel, which is turf, peat, and heath, brought from hills far off, and the diſtance from a ſea-port, are great diſadvantages to this pariſh. There are 43 ploughs, each of which is generally drawn by 8 or 10 ſmall oxen. There about 40 ſmall carts, each drawn by 1 or 2 ſmall horſes.—The people in this corner are very agile and well-ſhaped, induſtrious and humane. They have no diſlike to a military life, eſpecially when any of the heritor's ſons gets a commiſſion. Luxury is a vice not known in this corner.—Land property is not often ſold; when it is, the price is generally about 25 years purchaſe.—The people here are not remakably given to complaints; but they are not inſenſible to their grievances. They well know, that as yet there is but little appearance of liberality in the mode adopted by land-holders, of letting their farms. If they happen to have any

regular

regular tack, which is far from being always the caſe, the number of years is too ſmall, often not amounting to 19, and never exceeding that number. And while the rent in money, meal, and barley, is high, the number of ſervices is very heavy, being commonly expreſſed in ſuch general, or rather ambiguous terms, as puts it into the power of the maſter, if he be ſo diſpoſed, to oppreſs the tenant. A generous mind will never think, without indignation, on the deſire which ſome proprietors of land in this Highland part of the country, have to keep their tenants in a ſtate of ſlaviſh dependence. That the latter ſhould preſume to think for themſelves, and the former have no other power of coercion but what reaſon and the laws of the country allow them, is a ſentiment ſo little reliſhed by many lairds, that a poor tenant, if he is diſpoſed to cringe, will often be preferred to one whoſe ſpirit and circumſtances lead him to think of a manly independence. Among the means by which the condition of the people in this part of Scotland could be ameliorated, the redreſſing of the above grievances is one. If any effectual method could be deviſed of baniſhing feudal prejudices, and quickening the progreſs northward, of a more liberal ſyſtem in the letting of farms, it might be of the utmoſt conſequence both to maſter and tenant. It muſt by no means be underſtood, however, that what is here ſaid is applicable to the pariſh of Towie, more than to other pariſhes around it. On the contrary, from the well known character of ſeveral of the heritors, there is every reaſon to believe, that were a more liberal plan of letting leaſes to be introduced into this diſtrict, they would be exceedingly ready to forward and adopt ſuch a beneficial meaſure.—The roads here are indifferent. They were originally made, and are kept in repair by the ſtatute-la-

bour, which is partly exacted in kind, and partly commuted. When paid in kind, it turns generally to little account. A general commutation ſeems to be the preferable mode.—There is granite and freeſtone in the pariſh, which are uſed for building houſes.

NUMBER LXXI.

UNITED PARISHES OF STRACHUR AND STRALACHLAN,

(COUNTY OF ARGYLE.)

By the Rev. Mr CHARLES STEWART.

Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.

THESE pariſhes were united in the year 1650. Strachur, before that period, was joined to Lochgoilhead; Stralachlan to Inverchaolan. In erecting theſe pariſhes into one, it was appointed that the glebe and manſe ſhould be in Strachur, which is now conſidered as the mother-church; and Strachur is the name by which they are now known. Prior to 1650, the pariſhes in Argyleſhire were very extenſive, and incommodious for the clergy and people. Moſt of the clergy have ſtill 2, ſome 3, ſome 4 places to preach in. The pariſhes are often interſected by arms of the ſea, and chains of high mountains.—Strachur of old was called *Killmaglaſs*, from *Kill*, which meant the reſidence of a ſaint; but it is commonly applied to a chapel, appropriated to the worſhip of a ſaint, and a ſmall portion of ground around the chapel, which was conſidered as ſanctified, and uſed for burying thoſe who died in the peace of the church. *Maglaſs* was the perſon's name who was conſidered

ſidered as tutelor ſaint of Strachur.—Stralachlan was called *Killvorrie*, from *Kill*, as above, and *Moirre*, the Virgin Mary. Stralachlan itſelf is partly derived from *Lachlan*, the name of a family of conſiderable diſtinction among the Highland clans, and whoſe reſidence has been in Stralachlan for time immemorial. The repreſentative of this family is chief of the Clan-lachlan.—This pariſh is ſituated in the preſbytery of Dunoon, and Synod of Argyle. It is 18 Engliſh miles in length. From the N. E. for 8 miles, it is 6 broad; for the other 10, only 3 broad. It is bounded on the E. and N. E. by the united pariſhes of Lochgoil-head and Killmorrich; on the S. by the united pariſhes of Killmun and Dunoon, and by Killmodan; on the N. and N. W. by Lochfine, an arm of the ſea, which ſeparates it on the N. from Inverary, on the N. W. from Glaſſrie.—The general appearance is hilly. There are ſome plains by the ſea-ſide, and on the borders of ſmall rivers, which bear a proportion to the hilly grounds only as 1 to 22. The hills afford excellent paſture for ſheep and black cattle; they are gradually growing green, ſince the ſheep's ſtocks have been introduced; the heath is decaying faſt, wherever the ſheep are allowed to paſture, but it never will be totally baniſhed; the ſoil of the hills has a natural tendency to produce it.—The diſtrict of Cowal, containing 6 pariſhes, is a point of land, ſtretching from N. E. to S. W. between the river Clyde and Lochfine. The N. E. part of the diſtrict, which joins Perthſhire, preſents a very rugged and broken ſurface. The mountains become gradually lower and ſmoother, as you advance to the S. W.; and towards the extremity, comparatively ſpeaking, the land is low and evenly.—There are a few ſpots on the banks of the river Cur, of excellent deep ſoil, a mixture of loam and clay, but in general the ſoil is ſharp and thin; it requires a conſtant ſupply of manure to make it produce any

kind

kind of crop; if left fallow for 6 years, and not paſtured by ſheep, it is covered with heath. The meadows, in warm rainy ſeaſons, give good crops of hay.—The air is pure and healthy, although a great quantity of rain falls on the hills and valleys, as is the caſe on all the weſt coaſt of Scotland. The rheumatiſm affects people of different ranks, and in different ſituations, owing, no doubt, to the moiſture and variableneſs of the climate.

Rivers, Lakes, Sea-coaſt, &c.—The river Cur has its ſource in the mountains that border on Lochgoilhead; for 2 miles it is rough and rapid; when it comes down to the plain, it runs ſmoothly, forming a number of beautiful links. After running about 7 miles, and receiving a number of ſmaller rivers, it diſcharges itſelf into Locheck, a lake of 6 miles in length, and ¼ mile in breadth. The bounds of the pariſh extend for 3 miles on each ſide of this lake, which lies, thus far S. E. and N. W.; it then forms a curve, turning S. and S. W. A few ſalmon, and a number of ſalmon-trout, come up this lake by the river Eachaig, which communicates with the Clyde. They are caught by angling. A ſtill net has been tried on the lake with ſome ſucceſs, but not enough to defray the expenſe of attendance. The ſalmon come up the river Cur in October and November, and remain through a great part of the winter; very few in ſummer. This was not the caſe ſome time ago. It would appear the ſalmon is not ſo plenty in the rivers ſince ſtill nets have become ſo numerous on the coaſt. The moſt remarkable thing with regard to * Locheck is, its abounding with freſh water herring.

* There is an old tradition in the pariſh regarding the origin of Locheck. It is ſaid, the ſpace it occupies was once a beautiful flat of arable land. The lake is now very deep; in many places from 60 to 70 fathoms. The people in its neighbourhood account it the deepeſt of any in Scotland.

herring. They are a dry inſipid fiſh; and are not diſcovered in any other lake on the weſt coaſt, excepting this and Lochlomond. This pariſh has 18 miles of ſea-coaſt. Lochfine borders it on one ſide to the extent of its whole length. The ſhore of this loch is partly flat and ſandy; partly ſteep and rocky. Where the land nigh the ſea is low, the ſhore is flat; where the ſea comes cloſe to the foot of the hills, the ſhore is high and rocky. There are no dangerous ſunk rocks on the coaſt; it is in general what the ſailors call a bold, and conſequently a ſafe ſhore. Beſides the herring occaſionally caught in Lochfine, there are a few cod and haddocks; but no boat from this pariſh is particularly employed in this kind of fiſhing.—The quantity of freſh water in Lochfine, from the number of ſtreams that diſcharge themſelves into it, and its diſtance from the ocean, renders the ſea-ware it produces almoſt unfit for kelp. This manufacture is ſeldom attempted. The inhabitants manure their lands with ſuch of it as they can get acceſs to. The quantity of it that muſt be laid on the ground is great, and its ſubſtance is exhauſted with the firſt crop. About 30 acres are manured with it annually for bear and potatoes. It anſwers well for bear; but the potatoes produced by it are of an inferior quality.—The river Cur annually carries away ſeveral acres of excellent ſoil. When ſwelled in different parts of its courſe, it undermines its banks, which tumble down and are carried away. It leaves a heap of gravel on the oppoſite ſide, which takes a long tract of years before it is covered with ſo much depth of ſoil as to produce a crop. In ſummer and autumn, by overflowing its banks, it often does much damage to the hay and corn; but there is no proſpect of a canal being cut for it to prevent this miſchief. The expenſe of this would be too great in proportion to the benefit that would be derived from it.

In

—In Autumn 1780, a remarkable water-ſpout fell on part of this pariſh, particularly on the hills to the north-eaſt of Locheck. It ruſhed down the hills with ſuch force, as to tear up the ſurface of the ground, tumbling down large ſtones, trees, moſs, and land, which were moſtly left in the plains that border the lake. Eight or ten acres of very good arable land were entirely deſtroyed. The quantity of ſtones and rubbiſh was ſo great, that twice the value of the land would not be ſufficient to defray the expenſe of clearing it. Eight inhabited houſes were totally thrown down, part carried into the lake, part buried under the ſand, &c. Fortunately this happened about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The people ſaw the water ruſhing down, and alarmed at the appearance, left their houſes, betook themſelves to the riſing grounds, and ſtood in the utmoſt conſternation, beholding their houſes and effects carried off. Several of the men, in attempting to ſave their property, were in imminent danger. Had this happened in the night-time, many lives muſt have been loſt. The pariſh contributed generouſly to make up the loſſes of the pooreſt ſufferers. Every man who could work, aſſiſted with eagerneſs in rebuilding the houſes. The landlord behaved with the greateſt humanity to the tenants. All the houſes on a ſmall farm to the north-weſt of Locheck, were demoliſhed by a ſimilar flood, ſome years before.

Curious Stones, &c.—On a high part of that ridge of hills which ſeparates Stralachlan from Glendaruel, there is a very large ſtone, remarkable for its ſituation. There is a deſcent from it on every ſide. The proſpect from it is very extenſive. It is called *Cailleach-vear* or *vera*. In the dark ages of ſuperſtition, it was perſonified, and ſaid to have a conſiderable property in cattle. *Cailleach-vear* makes a conſpicuous figure in the marvellous tales of the country people, over a great

great part of the Weſt Highlands. Her reſidence was ſaid to be on the higheſt mountains; that ſhe could ſtep with eaſe, and in a moment, from one diſtrict to another; when offended, that ſhe cauſed a flood to come from the mountains, which deſtroyed the corns, and laid the low grounds under water; that one of theſe floods was the origin of Lochow, in Lorn, of Locheck, in this pariſh, and of many other lakes; that the people paid her a ſuperſtitious veneration, and were under dreadful apprehenſions of her anger. It would be amuſing to record the many marvellous traditions that prevail in the Highlands, which have an allegorical meaning, eſpecially where the allegory can be eaſily traced. In the inſtance of *Cailleach-vear*, it is very obvious, *Be'ir* is the Gaelic for a thunderbolt. In the oblique caſes, it is pronounced *Ve'ir;* as *Bein-ve'ir*, the name of a very high mountain in the pariſh of Appin, which ſignifies the *Mountain of Thunder*. Every thing ſaid of *Cailleach-vear*, literally applies to the effects of thunder, which is doubly awful in the neighbourhood of high mountains; nor is it ſurpriſing that it ſhould be perſonified and ſuperſtitiouſly dreaded in ages of ignorance. The mountains of Sierra Leona in Africa, which divide Nigritia from Guinea, were ſtyled by the ancients, the mountains of God, on account of their being ſubject to thunder and lightning. The ſituation of *Cailleach-vear*, in Stralachlan, is much expoſed to every ſtorm. When a ſtorm was accompanied with thunder, it may be eaſily ſuppoſed, that ſuch as were tending herds or flocks around that ſtone, would be much alarmed, would run off, and leave their charge to the mercy of the perſon who was ſuppoſed to produce the ſtorm. If any of the cattle were amiſſing, *Cailleach-vear* was accuſed of having ſeized upon them, and no further ſearch was made.

On the ſame ridge of hills, about 8 miles to the eaſtward of *Cailleach-vear* a ſmall conical hill riſes conſiderably above the

the neighbouring hills. It is ſeen from Inverary, and from many parts at a great diſtance. It is called *Sien-Sluai*, the fairy habitation of a multitude *. On the top of it, which is flat, aſhes have been found, and bits of timber half burnt, within the area of a circular building, whoſe foundations can be eaſily traced. The area is now covered with moſs of conſiderable depth. Tradition reports, and it is very likely, that it was one of thoſe alarm-towers ſo frequent in the north of Scotland. There were chains of them on conſpicuous high grounds from the weſt to the eaſt coaſt. They were conſtantly watched when there were any apprehenſions of the approach of an enemy. By kindling a fire or fires, the arrival of a hoſtile fleet on the coaſt, and even the number of the ſhips was announced, in a very ſhort ſpace of time, to the moſt diſtant corner of the kingdom.—There is an obeliſk in the midſt of a plain field, within 80 yards of Strachur-houſe, the reſidence of General Campbell of Strachur. About 15 years ago, when the General was building his houſe, there was a number of ſtones of different ſizes about this obeliſk. He was told that they were the remains of a druidical circle, and gave particular orders that none of the ſtones ſhould be removed; on purpoſe, that any perſon converſant in antiquities might be enabled to trace the circle. The ſtones, however, were moſtly taken away in the General's abſence. It does not, however, appear, that this obeliſk was any part of a druidical circle. It is moſt likely that it was erected as a memorial of the death of ſome man of eminence, who had been killed on that ſpot; a cuſtom which was very prevalent in the Highlands. This obeliſk is 10

* A belief in fairies prevailed very much in the Highlands of old; nor at this day is it quite obliterated. A ſmall conical hill, called *Sien*, was aſſigned them for a dwelling, from which melodious muſic was frequently heard, and gleams of light ſeen in dark nights.

feet in height. It is very nearly ſquare, being 22 inches at the baſe, and tapering gradually towards the top, where it meaſures only 10 inches. Some old people remember 2 ſtones of the ſame appearance, one of them much larger than the one deſcribed; all within 300 or 400 yards of each other. By ploughing and digging the ground about them, they fell down, and were broken for the purpoſes of building.—There is a little round hill nigh the head of Locheck, called *Tom-a-chorachaſich*, 'the man's hillock, 'whoſe legs were of unequal length.' It is ſaid, that a Prince of Denmark, whoſe party had been routed in an engagement on the coaſt, is buried in this hillock, where he had been overtaken by his purſuers, killed and interred. He is ſaid to have been of gigantic ſtature. He is called 'an Corrachaſach mor mae Righ Lochlan;' the great Corrachaſach, ſon to the King of Denmark.

Caves.—A cave in the ſide of a hill, called *Tur-na'n calman*, 'the fort of pigeons,' in the farm of Invernaodin, is frequently viſited. It is remarkable for the length of time a ſtone thrown in at the mouth of it, continues to tumble down with a remarkable noiſe, as if it were rolling over ſheets of copper. There is another cave in a hill called *Carnach mhor*, ſo wide at the entrance as to admit 4 men a-breaſt; it then expands, furniſhing an apartment, where 50 men in arms may ſtand without any inconveniency; then it becomes narrow, and in advancing, there is an apartment equally large with the firſt; and ſo on alternately, as far as it has been explored. There are a number of other ſmaller caves in the ſide of the ſame hill. A cave in the farm of Ballimore, in the face of a ſteep rugged rock, deſerves only to be mentioned on account of a remarkable man who took up his reſidence in it, and whoſe name it bears. It is called *Uamhachorolaich*,

laich, 'the ſtrange fellow's cave:' It is ſaid, that a man, unknown to any perſon, carried his wife and family into this cave, which is almoſt inacceſſible; that he ſupported them there, by preying on the neighbourhood; that he avoided as much as poſſible being ſeen; but that when his neceſſities obliged him to make his appearance, he ſtruck the people with ſuch awe and terror, that they refuſed him nothing; that he never particularly oppreſſed any perſon; that he left the country after he had reared his family.

Woods.—The woods conſiſt of oak, aſh, birch, alder, hazel, mountain aſh, aſpen and elm. Their value is known, having lately been cut and ſold. A cutting of the whole would be worth L. 6000 Sterling. They are cut at the end of 20 years. A few of the oaks are reſerved till the next cutting. The moſt healthy and thriving plants are pitched upon; but though allowed to grow to the age of 40 or 60 years, they are not fit timber for large ſhips. They are bought for building boats, for couples and rafters, &c. to the houſes of country people. The bark of the oak brings the greateſt part of the money that is given for the woods. The birch, alder, and hazel are made into charcoal, for which there is a ready market. An Engliſh Company, who have erected a furnace on the oppoſite ſhore of Lochfine, for ſmelting iron ore, have a conſtant demand for it. There is alſo a demand for it from England. The groſſeſt part of it is uſed for ſmelting the ore; the ſmalleſt or droſs for reducing the pig-iron to the proper ſtate of that metal. The planting is not conſiderable. The little that is done in this way is only for ornament and ſhelter about gentlemen's houſes. This, however, by degrees, will lead to plant, with a view of having uſeful timber. Orchards do not thrive

thrive well in this diſtrict. The trees promiſe well for a few years, but ſoon decay. It appears that not long ago, the face of the country was moſtly covered with woods. It was then a great object to clear the ground of them; but this ſpirit has been carried too far, as there are many ſpots of ground which would make better returns to the landlord, if producing wood, than if paſtured, beſides their utility and ornament to the country.

Population.—By Dr Webſter's reports, the numbers were 1193. In January 1783, there were 1061. Of whom were under 8 years of age, - - 221
Above 8, unmarried, - - - 430
Widowers and widows, - - - 68
Married, - - - - 342

The average number of marriages for 10 years back is 9 yearly; of baptiſms 33. It is only within theſe 40 years that any regiſter was kept, and for 28 of theſe not very regular. Till within 40 years, the population is ſaid to have continued nearly the ſame for a long time back; ſince that period, it has decreaſed by a third, and is ſtill decreaſing. There are not now 1000 perſons in the pariſh.—There are 12 weavers in the pariſh, who weave coarſe cloths and linens, ſuch as the country people wear. There is 1 maſon, 3 carpenters; there are 2 blackſmiths, 5 tailors, 2 ferrymen, 2 innkeepers. The people are ſober and induſtrious. No perſon from this pariſh has been tried for a crime, for many years back. They reſpect the laws, and pay due regard to their ſuperiors, civil and eccleſiaſtical. They are all of the eſtabliſhed religion, and very punctual in attending the ſervice of the church.

Agriculture,

Agriculture, &c.—The pariſh contains about 39,000 acres, Scots meaſure, which is calculated from the number of ſquare miles it amounts to. 700 acres, at preſent, are uſed for the purpoſes of agriculture: Little more than the half of which is annually in tillage. This computation is made from the quantity of grain ſown, which is 312 bolls oats, 14 bolls bear, 126 bolls potatoes. The woods occupy 1500 acres; 36,800 are in paſtures for horſes, black cattle and ſheep. The farms are very unequal in extent. There is one of L. 200 Sterling of rent; ſeveral about L. 100; ſome not more than L. 20. The proportion of arable land in each farm is ſmall; the price of labour is high; the land unevenly, and of an inferior quality; the climate unfavourable for raiſing crops; a number of horſes are required for the labour, which, through the greateſt part of the year, are a dead ſtock on the hands of the farmer. Theſe circumſtances render the arable land of ſo little value, that in taking a farm, it is only looked upon as a conveniency, and a rent is only given in proportion to the number of cattle for which the farm can afford paſture. At an average, the paſture grounds may be valued at 13 d. the acre; but at this rate, the whole rent is laid on the graſs grounds. There are in the pariſh 175 horſes, 821 cows, 12,280 ſheep. The average produce is 1092 bolls of oats, 613 bolls bear, and 1512 bolls of potatoes. The crops that are raiſed very nearly ſupply the inhabitants. About 100 bolls of imported meal are bought; but there is nearly an equivalent of bear, of meal and of potatoes, ſold to diſtilleries in the neighbourhood. Upon comparing the number of inhabitants with the produce, it will appear that each perſon's ſhare is very ſmall; but a number of men and women leave the pariſh in ſummer and autumn, and go to public works; ſuch as fiſhing, cutting wood, manufacturing barks, and harveſt-work in the ſouth of Scotland. The valued rent is L. 267: 16: 9 Sterling.

Sterling. The real rent is L. 2070 Sterling. Services from the tenants are almoſt totally aboliſhed. The principal eſtates in the pariſh are freeholds. The leſſer eſtates hold of the Duke of Argyle, to whom is paid a ſmall feu-duty. The pariſh is divided among 11 heritors; 6 of whom reſide. The other have their reſidence cloſe in the neighbourhood.—Donald Maclachlan, Eſq; one of the Faculty of Advocates in Scotland, is principal heritor. His predeceſſors lived in a caſtle, which is ſtill ſtanding. It is a large building, nearly ſquare. The height of the walls is 47 feet 3 inches. Its greateſt length is 72 feet 4 inches. It is not preciſely known when Caſtlelachlan was built. The tradition regarding it is, that it was built by a lady at a time her huſband, the laird, was abroad, ſerving in one of the cruſades. Mr Maclachlan ſeems reſolved to keep the caſtle in ſuch repair as it was in when he ſucceeded to it; but finding it inconvenient for a family reſidence, he has juſt now built a good modern houſe cloſe by the caſtle. This houſe is ſituated in the middle of a plain, by the ſide of a ſmall river. It fronts Lochfine, of which it commands a view for ſeveral miles. The hills, which have an unbroken ſurface and gentle ſlope, more than half ſurround the houſe, and ſhelter it from every wind, excepting the ſouth-weſt. Certain ſpots on the declivity of the hills are planted with foreſt-trees; ſome of which are already in great forwardneſs. The variety of ſhades between them, and the natural wood will have a very fine effect in beautifying the place, which, for its extent, is much admired. Mr Maclachlan's eſtate lies in one continued ſtretch on the ſide of Lochfine. It is 11 miles in length, and at an average a mile and an half in breadth. His houſe is about the centre. The farms on the eſtate moſtly border on Lochfine. The tenants houſes are nigh the ſhore, where they have their arable grounds; their paſture lands reach to the ſummit of the hills

hills which ſeparate the pariſh from Glendmule. He has more than the half of all the woods in the pariſh, which make a beautiful appearance viewed from the other ſide, or from Lochfine. The ſhade they afford, and the delicate flavour of a vaſt quantity of honeyſuckle, which grows ſpontaneouſly among them, will be exceedinly refreſhing to the traveller, when the line of road is completed, which is begun, and carrying on, down the ſide of Lochfine. The feelings they raiſe is like that of comfortable clothing in a bleak and cold country. There is no object in the Highlands more pleaſant than gentle ſloping hills, ſkirted with wood, and terminating in the ſea. Such an object Mr Maclachlan's eſtate offers to the view through the greateſt part of its extent.—Lieutenant-General Campbell, Colonel of the 57th regiment of foot, the preſent laird of Strachur, is alſo a reſiding heritor. His predeceſſors lived ſometimes in Lochgoilhead, at a place called Ardgartan, where they had a large property, which ſtill continues in the family; ſometimes in different farms on their eſtate in this pariſh. They had a conſiderable property in the pariſh of Arroquhar, alſo in the Iſle of Sky. This family is reckoned by ſome the moſt ancient of the name of Campbell. The late laird of Macfarlane, who, with great genius and aſſiduity, had ſtudied the ancient hiſtory of the Highlands, was of this opinion. The patronymic name of this family was *Macarthur*, (the ſon of Arthur), which Arthur, the antiquary mentioned above, maintained, was brother to Colin, the firſt of the Argyle family, and that the repreſentatives of the two brothers continued for a long time to be known by the names of *Macarthur* and *Maccaillein*, before they took the ſurname of Campbell. Another account makes Arthur the firſt laird of Strachur, to have deſcended of the family of Argyle, at a later period, in which the preſent laird ſeems to acquieſce, by taking, with a mark of cadetry,

dentry, the arms and livery of the family of Argyle, after they had been quartered with thoſe of Lorn. The laird of Strachur has been always accounted, according to the cuſtom of the Highlands, chief of the *Clan Artuir*, (the Macarthurs), who, like other clans, followed their chief in predatory and warlike excurſions, and whom he patroniſed and ſupported. Since the abolition of the juriſdiction, this ſyſtem is exploded, and in a ſhort time the exiſtence of it will be totally forgotten. When the General ſucceeded to the eſtate of Strachur, the family-houſe was but ſmall and incommodiouſly ſituated. He pitched on a large plain, on the borders of Lochfine, incloſed and ſurrounded it with planting. He formed his garden, conſiſting of 2 acres of ground, and fenced it with a high wall. It is now well ſtocked, and in excellent order. He has built an elegant large houſe, and a very complete court of offices, which, perhaps, exceed the proportion they ſhould bear to the houſe. He has formed ſome beautiful walks through his incloſures, particularly on the banks of a ſmall river, which runs through his pleaſure-grounds. He is going on with the Engliſh method of farming, principally with a view to raiſe a ſufficiency of green crops, which alone ſuit this climate. He has called his place Strachur-park; it is now a very great ornament to this part of the Highlands. It is only about 20 years ſince he began, and it is almoſt complete. It appears to the greateſt advantage, viewed from the road that is carried down the oppoſite ſhore of Lochfine. A large baſon, which is formed by a curve of Lochfine, lies immediately before the principal front of the houſe. The other front commands a view of the whole pleaſure grounds, and of the neighbouring hills, one of which appears from his windows in the figure of a cone of the moſt regular ſhape. In a bow which projects from the middle of this front, there is a drawing-room, having 3 large windows; oppoſite

to

to one of the windows is the hill above deſcribed. There is a particular hill oppoſite to each of the other windows, not altogether of ſuch a remarkable ſhape, but ſufficient to attract particular notice. The General's tradeſmen, his labourers, and even his crofters, have their houſes built of ſtone and lime with ſlated roofs; theſe, an excellent inn, and the miniſter's houſe and offices, which are cloſe to the General's houſe, contribute much to enliven the appearance of the place. Every thing about it has a new, neat, and finiſhed look.

Stipend, School, and Poor.—Sir Alexander Campbell of Ardkinglaſs, Bart. and Donald Maclachlan, Eſq; of Maclachlan, are patrons of the pariſh. They preſent to the living alternately. The ſtipends, by an interlocutor of the Court of Teinds, 8th December 1790, were appointed to be 7 chalders ½ boll of meal, and L. 231 : 6 : 8 Scots money, and that both for ſtipend and for furniſhing the communion-elements. The glebe conſiſts of 15 acres of very bad ſoil. The manſe was built in 1780, and is rather above the ſize of the generality of clergymens houſes. There are 2 churches in the pariſh, in which the miniſter officiates alternately. One of them is in Strachur, cloſe to the manſe; the other is in Stralachlan, 6 miles diſtant.—There are 2 parochial ſchools, 1 at each of the pariſh churches. The ſalary for both the ſchools is only L. 8 : 6 : 4 Sterling. 90 ſcholars, at an average, attend theſe ſchools during the winter and ſpring quarters. From 40 to 50, in ſummer and autumn. Reading, writing, arithmetic, and the principles of religion, are taught. There are other 2 ſchools in the pariſh, in diſtricts diſcontiguous to the churches. The inhabitants of 2 or more farms join and employ a young man for teaching their children. They give him board and lodging alternately in their houſes, and ſuch wages as

they can agree for. At theſe other ſchools, there is about half the number of ſcholars that attend the parochial ſchools. Till within 10 years, there was a ſchool in this pariſh ſupported by the Society for propogating Chriſtian Knowledge. In giving a ſchool to a pariſh, the Society always appoint the ſchoolmaſter; and they make it a condition, that the pariſhioners furniſh him *gratis* with a ſufficient houſe, garden, graſs and fodder for a cow, and as many dry peats as he may require. The man whom the Society ſent laſt to this pariſh, was lame, old, and infirm, and being naturally peeviſh, the pariſhioners and he could not be mutually ſatisfied. He died in the ſervice. The Society did not ſend a ſucceſſor; and though the miniſter offered repeatedly to apply for one, the people would not conſent to the burdens required by the Society, having formerly found them exceedingly troubleſome. As the Society now have a handſome fund, it is to be hoped they will be more liberal.—The average number of poor in the pariſh is 20. Each of them get from 10 s. to 15 s. at an annual diſtribution of the funds. The poor conſiſt of elderly perſons, who, unable to earn a ſubſiſtence, go about and get alms from the inhabitants. If any of them are diſabled from travelling about, there is a meeting of the heritors and ſeſſion called, and ſuch of the pariſhioners as chooſe to attend, in order to aſſeſs the pariſh for their ſupport. Every plough of land pays a certain quantity of meal, and this is ſent to the poor perſon's place of abode; beſides, ſuch a ſum of money is ſent out of the funds, as is thought ſufficient to purchaſe any neceſſary of clothing or medicine. The fund at preſent is about L. 120 Sterling, which has been made up partly by donations, and partly by ſavings in plentiful years. The collections at the church-doors amount annually to about L. 14 Sterling. Many plans have been concerted by the Commiſſioners

of

of Supply, and the Synod of Argyle, for preventing beggars from travelling about without the bounds of their reſpective pariſhes; but the prejudices of the people, in general, have been ſuch a bar to theſe plans, that they have all proved ineffectual. No fine will prevent ſome people from giving alms to whoever aſks it *for the love of God.* Though the maſter of a family ſhould give ſtrict orders againſt it, his orders will not be obeyed. The beggars take advantage of this prejudice, ſome from neceſſity, others from idle habits, will perſiſt in going about. It is much to be wiſhed for, that ſome criterion could be eſtabliſhed, by which the truly neceſſitous could be known. But till that is clearly done, would it be proper to diſcourage giving alms? Seeing objects of diſtreſs, cheriſhes humane diſpoſitions. Giving daily to the poor, nouriſhes habits of benevolence.

Wages, &c.—The price of labour is very high. It has riſen very much within theſe 3 years. To this the following cauſes have contributed: 1. The cotton-manufactures, the printing and bleaching fields in the neighbourhood of Glaſgow, have drained this pariſh of a number of workmen. 2. The herring which have appeared in Lochfine and other arms of the ſea adjacent, have induced many of the beſt labourers to become fiſhers, an employment they prefer to any work that requires a continued exertion. 3. The extenſive improvements carried on by General Campbell and others, have cauſed an uncommon demand for labourers.—The wages of a good labourer, from 1ſt March to 1ſt October, is 1 s. 2 d. a-day, for the reſt of the year 1 s.; an ordinary labourer has 2 d. leſs. The wages of a good man ſervant, for farm work, when maintained in the family, is L. 7 Sterling, and 3 pair of ſhoes, worth 12 s: Three times as much as it was 40 years ago. A maid ſervant,

vant, for common houſehold or farm work, has L. 3 a-year, and 2 pairs of ſhoes, worth 6s. A labouring man, and whoſe wife has even a moderate ſhare of induſtry, can maintain a family of 4 or 5 children in a very decent manner, and give them a ſuitable education. There is no inſtance of a labouring man being in indigent circumſtances, when he and his wife are attentive, and deſirous of employment. There are few parts of the kingdom where this claſs of men has more reaſon to be contented with their ſituation. There being no market contiguous, they lay in for their winter proviſion the half of a ſmall cow or bullock, weighing from 10 to 12 ſtone Tron weight, or a proportionable quantity of mutton, and a ſtore of herring. This, with potatoes, is their food for half the year. For the other half, they live on oat-meal, milk, and ſometimes freſh herring. The potatoes, indeed, generally laſt three quarters of a-year. Such of them as have a milk cow, which moſt of them have, gather as much dung as enables them to raiſe a ſufficient quantity of this uſeful root. The farmers always give them as much land as they can furniſh manure for.

Language.—The Gaelic language is univerſally ſpoken in this pariſh. Many of the natives can ſpeak no other language. The young people, from novelty, go for ſervice to the ſouth ſide of the Clyde, and learn the dialect of that country. This, with what they learn at ſchool, enables them to underſtand the Engliſh language, and, in ſome meaſure, to ſpeak it; but ſtill their mother tongue is much more familiar to them. In their common converſation, whichever language they attempt, there is a mixture of the idioms and phraſes of both. Let ſuch as have a partiality for the Gaelic, commit it to writing, whilſt yet its purity may be traced, and it will always afford plea-

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ſure to the learned, to ſtudy a language ſo nervous, ſo original, and ſo well calculated to deſcribe the cuſtoms, manners, and amuſements of a people who, for ſo long a time, have withſtood every kind of innovation.

Diſadvantages.—The greateſt diſadvantage this pariſh labours under, is the difficulty and expenſe of procuring fuel. In general, peats are uſed. Theſe are only got on the tops of the hills. The ſteepneſs of the hills renders the leading of them very troubleſome. If coals could be got free of duty, very few peats would be made in the pariſh. The heritors and principal tackſmen burn coals chiefly. The duty on water-born coals is a great grievance to all Argyleſhire, and a great bar to improvement. There is limeſtone in this pariſh, but the price of coals renders the lime ſo dear, that, as yet, it is little uſed in agriculture. The above grievance is felt the more, that in the neighbouring pariſhes of Lochgoilhead and Dunoon, they get coals free of duty, being ſituated on the ſide of the Clyde, and within the limits of the frith.

Advantages.—The advantage of being ſo nigh the Clyde, this pariſh enjoys in common with all the diſtrict of Cowal; butchers, from Greenock and Glaſgow, come to the ſeveral farms to buy the cattle. The farmers have eaſy acceſs to Greenock, where they have a ready market for whatever they have to diſpoſe of, and where they can procure, and eaſily get home, whatever they may want for the uſe of their families. The herring which frequent Lochfine, are no doubt a great advantage to this diſtrict. A clear gain, amounting ſome years to L. 500 or L. 600 Sterling, ariſes from that fiſhery. But the fiſhing, eſpecially when ſucceſsful, has a great tendency to produce habits of idleneſs among the people. The method of catching herring

purſued

purſued in Lochfine, requires only occaſional exertions; for two-thirds of their time the fiſhers have nothing to do. The ſmall tenants who follow the fiſhing cannot pay proper attention to their farms. The fiſhing generally begins in the month of July, and continues till Chriſtmas. Each boat has 4 men. Each man furniſhes his quota of nets and fiſhing apparatus. The owner of the boat gets a fifth part of the clear profits, which varies greatly, even when the fiſhing anſwers beſt. In one boat, each man's ſhare of clear gain is from L. 12 to L. 15 Sterling, whilſt in another the ſhare does not amount to a ſixth part of that ſum. The ſucceſsful and unſucceſsful are, however, diſpoſed to try it next ſeaſon; the former, truſting to a continuation of his good luck; the latter, in hopes of better fortune. In the year 1788, 27 boats, and 108 men, from this pariſh, were employed. Since that period, the herring have not appeared in ſuch quantities as to induce the people to make a buſineſs of the fiſhing. This fiſhing has given the people a reliſh for ſeafaring. When diſappointed of the fiſhing at home, a number of the young men go as hands on board the ſmacks which are ſent annually from the Clyde to fiſh among the weſtern iſles. A few of theſe continue ſailors, and are employed in larger veſſels that ſail on diſtant voyages.

Change produced by Sheep-Stocks.—Within theſe laſt 30 years, eſpecially ſince ſheep-ſtocks have been introduced, it is remarked, that a number of people from this diſtrict have become ſailors; but it appears, that neceſſity, and not choice, has been the cauſe. By joining together 2, 3, or more farms, and converting them into a ſheep-walk, 12 or 16 tenants, with their families, were thrown out of their uſual line of employment. The ſea opened its arms to the young and active. Such of the elderly men as could labour,

bour, took cottaries, and wrought for hire. Many whole families emigrated to the manufacturing towns, where a change of climate and diet ſhortened the days of the old, and enervated the young. From the era of introducing ſheep-ſtocks, a very great change is obſervable in the diſpoſitions of the people. Till then, they ſhewed no predilection for a ſeafaring life. Till then, their ſentiments were generally warlike. Round every fire-ſide, the entertainment of the evening was rehearſing tales of former times, the actions of brave men, the warlike feats of their anceſtors. By ſuch converſation, the young mind, fired with the ſpirit of great examples, eagerly panted after an opportunity of being ſignalized, by ſurmounting difficulties, by encountering dangers. Attachment to the chief, and a jealouſy of his honour, were reckoned primary virtues. Theſe were inculcated at an early period of life, they were ſtrengthened by habit, they prevailed univerſally. When the chief, or any of his family ſtepped forward to ſerve in the army, all the young men readily followed him, as their fathers had done on ſimilar occaſions *.—The diſtrict is now thinned of its inhabitants. The people have been forced to leave their native hills. Such as have gone have changed their manners, and the old ſpirit of the Highlander

* Inſtances of this are well remembered, when the 42d regiment was firſt raiſed, and particularly when the Heirs of Ardkinglaſs and Strachur were appointed officers in Lord Loudon's regiment in 1745. Though it was not then the mode to make the officers commiſſions depend upon raiſing a certain quota of men, yet the two young gentlemen got moſt of their company, who followed them as volunteers, from their paternal eſtates. How different the ſentiments of the people in 1778! When it was propoſed to raiſe a Weſtern Fencible Regiment, the gentlemen of Argyleſhire engaged to furniſh a certain number of men; but though the men had an expreſs promiſe from Government, that they ſhould not be called out of the kingdom, nor even into England, excepting in caſe of an invaſion, the heritors were obliged to bribe them high.

Highlander is extinguiſhed in thoſe that remain. The ſheep have baniſhed the men. Where, in 12 or 16 families, a hardy race was reared, ever ready to repel an enemy, and gain glory to their country, an opulent tackſman, with a ſhepherd or two, occupy the lands. Their converſation is not of former times. New plans of tending their ſheep, and improving their wool, occupy their thoughts, and engage their attention. In ſhort, the character of the Highlanders will ſoon be forgot. To know what it was, recourſe muſt be had to Sir John Dalrymple's Memoirs, at his entering on the tranſactions of Lord Dundee; or to the Sketch drawn of it by the Abbe Raynal, in ſpeaking of the ſettlers in North Carolina. And who can read theſe, without regretting that he has no opportunity, in his own country, of ſeeing the originals? The Highlanders of old did not live either in plenty or in elegance, yet they were happy. They piqued themſelves on their capacity of enduring hunger and fatigue. They were paſſionately fond of muſic and of poetry. The ſong and the dance ſoon made them forget their toils. The ſound of the bagpipe is now ſeldom heard. With the modes of life that nouriſhed it, the vein for poetry has alſo diſappeared. The deer have fled from the mountains. A foreſt, in the cloſe neighbourhood of this pariſh, where ſeveral hundreds of them roamed at pleaſure, is now converted into a ſheep-walk.

Villages.—A military ſpirit prevails much among the gentlemen of this country; they would wiſh to keep the men; but their lands give ſo much more rent by ſtocking them with ſheep, that they cannot withſtand the gain. The numbers who emigrate yearly to th ſouth of Scotland, and to foreign countries, is matter of ſerious regret to every perſon intereſted in the Highlands. To prevent this evil, fiſhing villages are building on the north-weſt coaſt;

and

and liberal contributions have been made for encouraging people to ſettle in them. This plan, however, does not promiſe ſucceſs. It is upon too extenſive a ſcale. The ſtrong local attachment of the Highlanders has not been attended to. By the plan of theſe villages, they will be at too great a diſtance from each other. It is expected that people will come to them for 60 miles round or upwards. This will not take place. If a Highlander is forced or induced to leave the ſmall circle which occupied his firſt affections, he cares not how far he goes from home. Going to another pariſh, or to the diſtrict of another clan, is to him entire baniſhment; and when he has reſolved to ſet out, whether from neceſſity or choice, he would as ſoon croſs the Atlantic as he would croſs an arm of the ſea. It is only an immediate and a very clear advantage that would induce him to ſtop. The fiſhing villages have not this to offer. It is only in the courſe of a ſeries of years, that the ſettlers have a proſpect of being comfortable. To keep the people from emigrating, villages muſt be frequent, their prejudices muſt be attended to, and encouragement held out to them to ſettle in the cloſe neighbourhood of their original homes; and here it will be found that very moderate advantages will ſatisfy them.

Hint for Improvements.—When 3 or 4 farms are thrown into one poſſeſſion, and converted into a ſheep-walk, and of courſe a number of families obliged to remove, let a farm in the neighbourhood be pitched upon, where fuel is convenient, where part of the lands is arable, and where there is a track of ground capable of cultivation; let it be incloſed, and ſubdivided; let houſes be built, and the people will flock to it. They cannot at firſt pay much rent; but by degrees, as they improve the land, and get into the way of other employments, they will be enabled

fully to indemnify the landlord for his expences. Where ſuch a ſituation can be had on the ſea-coaſt, the village will do well. The landlord ought to encourage ſome manufacture of wool or cotton, to furniſh employment for the wives and children of the villagers. If this plan were followed, emigration would never be thought of, the population of the Highlands would be found not to decreaſe; uſeful hands would be got at a call, for every kind of labour; ſervants got at moderate rates, for the purpoſes of agriculture or tending flocks; and what remains of the ſpirit and manners of the ancient Highlanders, for a length of time, be preſerved.—Mr Maclachlan has begun a village on his property in this pariſh. It promiſes exceedingly well. It is from his plan, and its ſucceſsful appearance, that the above hints are ſuggeſted.—If the ſums to be expended on the fiſhing villages, were diſtributed in premiums to the heritors in the Highlands, for building villages, in proportion to the number of people ſupported in each, every purpoſe propoſed by the Society, who have begun the fiſhing villages, would be effectually anſwered. The State would be ſtrengthened by ſea and by land. Ought not the State to encourage this ſcheme?

END OF VOLUME FOURTH.

APPENDIX.

THE following particulars reſpecting the pariſh of KILMALCOLM, (No. XXXVI.) were tranſmitted by the Miniſter ſince the account was printed. (See page 274.)

Name.—It is ſuppoſed by ſome, that the name of this pariſh is compounded of the Gaelic word *Kil*, which ſignifies a burying ground, and the name *Malcolm*, and conſequently that it was the burial place, of ſome diſtinguiſhed perſon of that name, in former times.

Improvements.—The moſt remarkable piece of improvement in this pariſh is by Dr Molleſon of Port-Glaſgow, on the farm of Bradefield, in the eſtate of Finlayſon and neighbourhood of Port-Glaſgow. Upon this farm he has built an elegant houſe, from which there is a beautiful proſpect of the Clyde, the town and ſhire of Dumbarton, an extenſive view of Argyleſhire, the high road leading from Glaſgow to Greenock, the towns and harbours of Greenock and Port-Glaſgow, &c. He has judiciouſly ſubdivided and incloſed the lands, with thorn hedges, and belts of planting. Though of a ſhallow ſoil, it now yields plentiful crops of oats, barley, beans and graſs of various kinds. His garden produces the plants and flowers common in the climate; and he raiſes many from foreign countries, which are uſeful in the line of his profeſſion. Theſe improvements do much honour to his judgment and taſte. The lands were in a ſtate of nature within theſe 30 years.

